The Daily and Weekly Commercial.—Newspapers and Periodicals.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

☞ REMITTANCES must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks or Drafts, if possible. When neither of these can be procured, send the Money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an Absolute Protection Against Losses by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XII.—NO. 26. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 8, 1875.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29, 1875.

Violations of the Revenue Laws.

The illicit manufacture of whisky is increasing to an alarming extent in the mountainous districts of Virginia and the Carolinas, and the Government is losing thereby an immense revenue, to which it is entitled. Information was received here to-day that a mob in Lee county, Virginia, had broken into the jail and released several persons who had been arrested and were awaiting trial for illicit distillation. Unless these violations of the law are discontinued, the Government will be compelled to detail posses of military to assist the revenue officials in the sections indicated, in the collection of the tax.

The Delano Scandal.

It is understood that the recent mendacious story as to the retirement of Secretary Delano from the Cabinet was concocted in the interest of a corrupt clique, at the head of which is one of the largest and boldest operators in Wall street. Secretary Delano, it is said, stands in the way of a land job of this clique; hence the effort to break down his influence and get him out of the way. The two newspapers in New York and Cincinnati, in which this story first appeared, are also known to be hostile to Secretary Delano.

Ex-Senator Carpenter

has entered upon the practice of the law in this city. He says he has made more in the last few months by attending to his practice than he made during his whole term in the Senate.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 30, 1875.

Customs Receipts for the Month

of April are, in round numbers, $13,250,000 coin, and $90,000 currency. For the four months since January 1, 1875, the receipts are $57,145,650 coin, and $351,401 currency. The total customs receipts for the fiscal year to date are, in round numbers, $133,752,000.

Internal Revenue Receipts

for the month of April are $7,022,331; for the four months since the first of January, $36,485,421; and for the fiscal year to date, $89,758,871.

The Estimated Receipts From Internal

for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June next, were $105,000,000. The receipts for the next two months will therefore have to be between fifteen and sixteen million dollars to make up the estimates. The receipts for the month are very nearly three million dollars less than for April of last year. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, however, stated to-day that he had no doubt that the receipts for the month would run up to such a figure as to make the total for the fiscal year exceed the estimates by perhaps two or three millions. In March the special license taxes will be collected, which will add very largely to the receipts for that month. In March the increased tax of fifty cents on whisky was paid on 1,096,075 gallons. For this month the amount from this source has not been so large, but the Commissioner states that as, in his opinion, the stock on hand on which the tax was paid before the increase is being worked off, the increase tax on whisky will now begin to be felt very sensibly in the receipts.

The Estimated Customs Receipts

for the fiscal year are, in round numbers, $162,000,000. This calls for the collection of over $28,000,000 during the next two months, or an average of $14,000,000 each during the months of May and June. It is not expected at the Treasury that the receipts can, during May and June, which are dull months with importers, reach any such amount. The general opinion is, therefore, that the customs receipts for this fiscal year will fall from one to three million dollars below the estimate. It must also be borne in mind that these estimates, both for customs and internal revenue, were made in advance of the passage of the new tax bill. The tariff bill has now been in force two months. It has been positively demonstrated that, although it may help the internal revenue receipts a little for this fiscal year, it will be a very appreciable benefit so far as the customs are concerned. The Treasury, therefore, cannot be said to be in a very prosperous condition.

The Government Balance

in the Treasury, which was over $10,000,000 two months ago, has run down to about $1,700,000. It looks as if, in a very short time, this would be entirely exhausted, unless it is replenished by sales of gold; but the drain in the Treasury is not likely to be heavy during the rest of this fiscal year, and it may be questioned whether, should the Secretary wish to renew his gold sales he will receive any considerable sum available in his vaults.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3, 1875.

The Schuylkill Bank Case.

Considerable comment has been caused here, in political circles, over the antics of the mutual admiration society which got up the late dinner in New York to ex-Senator Schurz. The subsequent declarations of Murat Halstead prove, what was suspected here at the time, that it was the beginning of an attempt to revive the Liberal or third party. As every politician here of the least sagacity knows perfectly well that it is nonsense to talk of or establishing a third party, the thing is looked upon as an attempt on the part of Schurz, Halsted & Co., to obtain a little cheap notoriety for themselves, which they are anxious to do even at the price of playing directly into the hands of the Democratic party. It is understood here that as soon as Schurz returns from Europe he intends to commence preaching up this third party to the Germans in his newspaper, in St. Louis.

Democratic Office Seekers.

Although Congress does not meet for seven months hence candidates for the offices in the gift of the House are as plenty around Washington as if it was December. Sam Randall spends nearly all his time here, and seems to be so confident of election as Speaker, that he actually talks of how the committees shall be appointed. Almost the universal opinion here is, however, that Sam will not be the man. There are probably a dozen seedy fellows from this town who want to be clerks and door-keepers, putting up at the cheap boarding houses, and button-holing every one they meet. There will be some lively scrambling among this crowd before next Christmas.

The State of Maryland Against the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The Supreme Court room was crowded to-day with members of the bar and spectators. It being the last day of the term. The court delivered opinions in a large number of cases, some of them of very great importance. Among these is the long pending capitation tax case of the State of Maryland against the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Contrary to general expectation, the court decided in favor of the State. The amount at stake is nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, and under the ruling of the court the decision exact for all time, unless it voluntarily relinquishes the right, one-fifth of the gross receipts for passengers on the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The court held that the charges for fare over the Washington branch had never been excessive, and was therefore not a restriction on travel. The court, in its opinion, expressed the hope that there never would be any general supervision over railroads by the National Government, but if the States interfered or permitted interference with the privileges as to transportation and inter-State commerce guaranteed to all the citizens of the United States by the Constitution, it was the duty of Congress to interfere for their protection, with all the constitutional power with which it is clothed.

The Elgee Cotton Cases.

Among the other cases decided by the court to-day, were those celebrated Elgee cotton cases. These cases involved a large amount of $366,000, and were decided in favor of the British claimant. A well-known law firm gets a twenty per cent. fee in these cases. General Butler was on the losing side, and not only misses a large prospective fee, but is out of pocket to the amount of $25,000 cash, he having bought out for that amount the interest of one of his clients.

Farragut Prize Cases.

As an offset to his bad luck in the Elgee cases, he gained the Farragut prize cases, in which $400,000 is involved, and on which he and his two partners get ten per cent. The Supreme Court at this term has disposed of three hundred and ten cases. The next term will begin in October.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. John T. Hartley, the Second Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, having been asked for his resignation, tendered it, to take effect on the appointment of his successor. Mr. Hartley has served under several Secretaries, and has always been regarded as a faithful and efficient officer. His successor, who had already been determined upon, is Mr. Curtis S. Burnham, Kentucky, a personal friend of Secretary Bristow.

CHARLESTON.

Ex-Congressman Bowen Arrested on a Serious Charge.

CHARLESTON, S. C., April 29.—Ex-Congressman Bowen was to-day arrested for instigating the murder of Colonel White, committed eleven years ago. This was the charge for the publication of which the *News and Courier* was last week prosecuted for libel. Judge Reed released Bowen upon $4,000 bail.

THE OSHKOSH FIRE.

DETAILS OF THE DEVASTATION.

PARTIAL LIST OE LOSSES AND LOSERS.

Total Damage Estimated at Two and a Half Millions.

CHICAGO, April 29.—The following facts in regard to the fire at Oshkosh are gleaned from specials to the morning papers: The building in which the fire originated was the saw mill of Morgan Brothers, on the north side of the river. It was as dry as tinder, and filled with the most combustible material. The heat was so intense that the firemen were unable to approach sufficiently near to render any service. The neighboring lumber piles fell an easy prey to the flames, and millions of feet of seasoned lumber were immediately enveloped. A dozen other saw and shingle mills and lumber piles yielded to the fury of the flames. A brisk wind fanned the flames, which were whetted by the small frame houses of the mill employees. Few of the families saved any of their effects. The firemen for a time fought bravely, in the face of terrible odds, to stay the progress of the fire, but were driven back step by step. One after another of the business buildings on Main street was licked up the insatiate fire and crumbled into masses of shapeless ruins. Between Algona and Ceape streets were located all of the principal dry goods stores, banks, hotels and newspaper offices. All of them went down before the resistless hurricane. Merchants had time to save but little, for their facilities for the transportation of goods to a place of safety were limited. A few succeeded in carrying a few loads of their most valuable wares away from the track of the fire, but by far the greater number lost them all. The Beckwith House and the Adams House, two hotels of large capacity, newly furnished with all modern improvements, were destroyed in almost a twinkling. Nothing worth mentioning was saved. The loss on the former will be about $40,000, and on the latter $32,000. Newspaper and telegraph offices shared the fate of the surrounding buildings. The *Northwestern* office, owned by Allen D. Hicks, was probably the most valuable. The *Northwestern* is a daily paper and fitted with all the facilities for its publication and for the execution of job printing. Nothing was saved. The loss will be about $18,000. The *Times*, a sprightly weekly published by D. W. Wood, also had the conveniences of a first-class office. The loss will reach about $10,000. Three men were reported killed by falling walls, but their names could not be ascertained in the confusion. Rumors of further loss of life were also prevalent, but were not authenticated up to a late hour last night. Over one hundred residences, most of them small, were burned. Over one hundred stores, hotels, banks, the Opera House (a valuable structure costing nearly $100,000, and the largest in Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee)—all these were destroyed. The loss is variously estimated. The most moderate estimate is $750,000, and the highest is two millions and a half. The city is in the utmost confusion. Hundreds of families are homeless, women and children lying about the streets or roaming around in search of places of shelter. The business men of the citizens seem utterly hopeless, and walk the streets with sad faces. The ruins are still smouldering, and when the former owners are allowed to sift what is left they say that they cannot tell at present. The offices of the telegraph are burned, and facilities for work are very poor. This, added to the general confusion and the inability of even those who were losers to give particulars, precludes the possibility of an extended report. Oshkosh lies on a flat piece of ground, and there is almost a continuous southwest wind which, on this occasion, was blowing with great violence. It has been the custom in Oshkosh, every, when a heavy westerly wind was blowing, for the mills which are situated in the western part of the city to stop work, to prevent fires. A number of mills shut down Wednesday noon, but Spaulding and Peck refused to work, and when Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Peck to do so he answered shortly that he (Peck) intended to run his own business. Shortly after this Morgan Brothers' mill was observed to be on fire, and in a few minutes the whole building was in flames. The fire companies and thousands of citizens were promptly on hand, but the gale was so fierce and the material of the mill so combustible that the fire could not be stayed, and it speedily drove them from place to place and advanced to the heart of the city. J. N. Davis, a clerk in the employ of Morgan Bros., attempted to save some books from the mill, but becoming bewildered was nearly roasted to death before he could find his way out, and expired soon after he reached the open air. The air was filled with shingles and cinders, which bore destruction to houses at a great distance from the actual flames, and as the flames proceeded rapidly toward the principal thoroughfares, even the most sanguine gave up the hope of checking them, and the city was devastated as already described.

The Insurances on Oshkosh.

CHICAGO, April 30.—The following insurance companies are known to have lost by the Oshkosh fire, in addition to those already sent: Mercantile, Chicago, $1,200; Allemania, Pittsburgh, $5,000; Glens Falls, $3,000; Black River, $3,000; Atlas, Hartford, $15,000; Niagara, New York, $25,000; German American, $6,500; Commercial, St. Louis, $5,000; Ætna, Hartford, $40,000; Home, New York, $50,000; Liverpool, London and Globe, $50,000; Melville, New Jersey, estimated at $6,000.

CHICAGO, April 30.—The *Times*' special from Oshkosh says the prospect at that city is already brightening, and the prospects are that before winter the majority of the business blocks will be rebuilt. The debris is cleared away from the principal streets, which are thronged with visitors who have come to see the ruins from all directions. Insurance men are present from all parts of the country; they do not take a discouraging view of the conflagration as a general thing, and rest a few have declared that they will stand ready to renew their risks. The structures burned down were generally pretty well insured, and are owned by men who can afford to rebuild. The vaults of the First National Bank were opened to-day and the contents found intact. Sixty-nine business structures were destroyed, and about half of these will be rebuilt immediately. The police to-day made a careful count, and found that, large and small, the sum total of dwellings destroyed is about five hundred. These are valued at an average of $2,500, which gives an aggregate loss of a million and a quarter dollars, which is probably nearer the correct figure. The loss on business houses is about a million, and on lumber interests from two hundred to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, making a total of about two and a half millions, on which the insurance is fully one million, or forty per cent. of the loss. The agency that did the most business lost all its books, but have nearly arrived at the correct figures of the losses. The following are the amounts sustained by each company, as nearly as the most diligent inquiry can ascertain: But the figures that will be forwarded to main offices: Home, New York, $100,000; Ætna, Hartford, $80,000; North American, Philadelphia, $70,000; London, Liverpool and Globe, $60,000; Phœnix, of Hartford, $45,000; Springfield, Massachusetts, Fire and Marine, $35,000; Continental, New York, $40,000; Northwestern National, Milwaukee, $44,000; North British Mercantile, $30,000; Hartford, of Hartford, $50,000; New Underwriters, $30,000; Allemanna, Pittsburgh, $25,000; Madison Mutual, $20,000; Phœnix, Brooklyn, $21,500; Niagara, New York, $17,000; Orient, Hartford, $16,500; German American, New York city, $25,000; Lancashire, of England, $20,000; Penn, of Philadelphia, $10,000; Pennsylvania, $15,000; Fire Association, of Philadelphia, $15,000; Peoples', of Memphis, St. Paul Fire and Marine, Connecticut, of Hartford, and Atlas, of Hartford, $10,000 each; Fire and Marine, of Detroit, Brewers', of Milwaukee, $5,000 each; Citizens', of Newark, New Orleans Association, Franklin, of Wheeling, and Melville, of New Jersey, $6,000 each; Home, of Columbus, $6,800; Planters, of Columbus, Black River, of Watertown, America, of Pittsburgh, National, of Hartford, Faneuil Hall, of Boston, Fireman's, of San Francisco, and Farmers', of Philadelphia, $5,000 each; St. Joseph, of Missouri, $3,600; Traders', of Chicago, and Globe, of Chicago, $3,000 each; Merchants, of Newark, $2,000. Outside of these companies the insurance is about fifty per cent. of the losses.

Among the heavy losers are James & Stelle, $30,000, insurance, $7,100; R. L. Bigger, $70,000, insurance, $30,000; Ayer & Folds, $35,000; Clark & Forbes, $50,000, insurance, $20,000; S. M. Hay & Bro., $45,000; P. J. Watson, $40,000, insurance, $10,000; Cell & Rogers, $25,000.

A relief committee has been organized, and substantial assistance for the afflicted is arriving from the East and other neighboring cities. Last evening, at a meeting of Council, fire limits were pushed forward in the direction from which the fire always threatened the city, so as to take the saw and planing mills out of this locality.

BOSTON.

Consecration of Archbishop Williams, Cardinal McCloskey Officiating.

BOSTON, May 2.—Cardinal McCloskey, the papal ambassadors, several bishops and a number of clergy from New York arrived here yesterday afternoon to assist in the consecration of Bishop Williams. The Cardinal was taken to the house of the Bishop and has been his guest during his stay here.

The consecration ceremonies, to-day, in the immense new Catholic Cathedral, attracted an immense crowd, and though the capacity of the building is 10,000, there were fully 10,000 persons surrounding it by nine o'clock this morning. The edifice was crowded in every part, and thousands were unable to obtain even a glympse of the inside of the Cathedral. Among the distinguished gentlemen who occupied seats in the middle aisle near the sanctuary, were Governor Gaston, member of the Executive Council and both branches of the Legislature, Mayor Cobb, members of the Common Council, heads of departments, and leading faculties of Harvard, Yale and other colleges and the French, British and other consuls at this and other ports. The ecclesiastical procession entered the following order: Thurifer, bearing a censor with burning incense; cross-bearer, with the processional cross between two acolytes with lighted candles; the master of ceremonies, assistant chief master of ceremonies, acolytes in red and purple cassocks, clergymen in black cassocks and white surplices, bishops with their chaplains, celebrating Masses and deacons, Archbishop Williams, clad in pontifical robes, and bearing his crozier; Cardinal McCloskey, clad in his scarlet robes, the papal embassy, consisting of Monsignor Roncetti, Special Ablegate Pashe Ubaldi, wearing a purple cassock, and Count Marefoschi then came a large number of clergymen. Cardinal McCloskey having seated himself on his throne, pontifical high mass was begun. The entire reports of the addresses will be delivered, and rendered with excellent effect. At the conclusion of the first gospel, Right Reverened Bishop Geesbrand deliveredan eloquent sermon, published in his text the second verse of the 83d Psalm.

The canon of the mass followed the sermon, and at the close of the communion service the bishop knelt before the high altar. The Cardinal, in the meantime, laid aside his *cappa magna* and put on an alb and patriarchal cloak, putting aside his berretta and substituting therefor a mitre. At the conclusion of mass, Rev. A. Scherwood Nealey, pastor of St. James' church, read in Latin and English the credentials of the Archbishop elect, sent from Rome authorizing the creation of the new See. Monsignor Roncetti then read a brief in Latin to the Archbishop elect, who replied in the same language, accepting the great responsibility and affirming his intention to discharge his duties to the best of his ability. The Cardinal then proceeded to the altar and, standing himself, read the formula of consecration, the Archbishop kneeling at his feet. The customary oath was next administered to him by the Cardinal, after which he placed the pallium on the Archbishop's shoulders. The Archbishop next assumed his mitre and intoned a portion of the Psalms prescribed for the occasion, which were taken up by the choir and sung in alternate verses. The ceremonies were concluded with the benediction by the Archbishop. A Te Deum was sung and the vast congregation slowly left the Cathedral.

The Cardinal, with the members of the embassy and a number of bishops and priests, dined with the new Archbishop at his residence. At one o'clock this morrow a banquet will be given in the basement of the Cathedral by the resident clergy of that city to the Cardinal and papal ambassadors. At the banquet addresses will be presented to the Cardinal, to Monsignor Roncetti, to Archbishop Williams and to Bishop Healy. A gold cross will also be presented to Archbishop Williams, and in the evening the distinguished personages will be the guests of the Catholic Union of Boston. A reception will be given in the hall of Boston College. The members of the Union will attend in full dress; also the clergy and invited guests to the number of eight hundred. A grand display of fireworks, by the College, will be in attendance. There will be a chorus of seventy voices, with an orchestra. The exercises will begin with a chorus of welcome; then will follow an address to the Cardinal by H. L. Richards, President of the Union; A Latin hymn by the chorus, response by the Cardinal; singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the chorus; address to Monsignor Roncetti in French by W. S. Pelletier, Secretary of the Union; Handel's Hallelujah chorus; response by Monsignor Roncetti. The exercises will close with the singing of a Te Deum. After the reception the party will be entertained by the Rev. President of the college. The Cardinal's party will leave the city Tuesday morning.

JOHNSTOWN.

Two Men Killed on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

JOHNSTOWN, PA., May 2, 1875.

Two brothers, named Godfrey, living near New Florence, Westmoreland county, came to this city yesterday and spent the day. About ten o'clock in the evening they started to walk on the railroad track to Conemaugh for the purpose of taking passage on a freight train for home. A short distance beyond the Johnstown station the Fast Line east overtook them and they attempted to board it for a ride to Conemaugh. The train was crowded, the other, missing his hold, was thrown under the train and instantly killed. His body was cut in two and frightfully mangled. The survivor jumped from the train at Conemaugh, and, not finding his brother, started to walk back toward Johnstown, when a passing freight train struck and instantly killed him. The watchman this morning found the remains, which were gathered together, put in coffins and sent to New Florence.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Train on the Atlantic and Great Western Ditched near Meadville—Three or Four Passengers Injured.

CLEVELAND, April 30.—On Wednesday train No. 3 on the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, ran off the track at Miller's station, about twenty miles from Meadville. The ladies' car was thrown in a ditch. The smoking car, baggage car, and tender of the engine were also off. Three or four passengers were seriously injured, but none, it is believed, seriously hurt.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

STATEMENT FOR LAST MONTH.

Decrease for the Month $2,325,346

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The following is an abstract of the official statement of the public debt for the month of April, 1875:

Six per cent. bonds	$1,132,177,050
Five per cent. bonds	580,652,750
Total coin bonds	$1,712,829,800
Lawful money debt	14,078,090
Matured debt	19,559,140
Legal tenders	$378,123,492
Certificates of deposit	47,865,000
Fractional currency	43,809,505
Coin certificates	22,403,300
Total without interest	$ 492,201,358
Total debt	$2,239,258,298
Total interest	35,628,178
Total debt and interest	$2,274,893,476
Cash in Treasury, coin	$ 34,625,639
Cash in Treasury, currency	1,096,375
Special deposits held for redemption of certificates of deposit	47,865,000
Total in Treasury	$ 143,587,044
Debt less cash in Treasury	$2,131,309,431
Decrease of debt in April	$ 2,325,346
Decrease since June 30th, 1874	11,778,809
Bonds issued to Pacific railway companies, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding	64,623,512
Interest accrued and not paid	1,282,479
Interest paid by United States	20,354,102
Interest repaid by transportation of mails, &c.	5,945,643
Balance of interest paid by United States	20,318,458

NEW ORLEANS.

Fresh Political Trouble—J. C. Moncure Claims the Office of State Treasurer and Asks for a Mandamus Against the Returning Board.

NEW ORLEANS, April 29.—The State of Louisiana, represented by A. P. Field, Attorney General, upon information of J. C. Moncure, has filed a petition in the Superior District Court, representing that Antoine Doubclet is now occupying and holding the office of State Treasurer under an illegal commission; that said Moncure was elected Treasurer and is legally entitled to said office; that said Moncure received 74,897 and Doubelet 71,021 votes, giving to the first a majority of 3,876; and that through the action of the Returning Board refusing to count Moncure's majority, he was improperly deprived of the office. He prays that a mandamus may issue against J. Madison Wells, J. C. Anderson, L. M. Kenner and G. Casanave, members of the Returning Board, commanding them to canvass the returns of Iberville, De Soto, Grant and Winne parishes and promulgate the same; and that judgment be rendered declaring that said Moncure received a majority of votes at the November election and is entitled to the office of State Treasurer on qualifying according to law.

NEW ORLEANS, April 30.—Wm. P. Kellogg, Governor of the State of Louisiana, suing for the use of said State, and represented by A. P. Field, Attorney General, has filed a petition in the Superior District Court against Charles Clinton, Auditor, and the securities on his special bond. Chas. Menard, Chas. G. Slayback, Wm. Dalton, Jr., Edward Gay and Geo. C. Wickham, *in solido*, for the amount of $10,000, to recover judgment against said Clinton for the sum of $279,783 83, the amount received from the Legislature, and which he has unaccounted for, detained and withheld by said Clinton; for the further sum of $80,300, the amount illegally paid James Longstreet; for the further sum of $45,500, the amount illegally taken from tax collectors by said Clinton and used by him; for the further sum of $138,557 35, the amount charged to be due for illegally issuing, per warrants, as follows: To George W. Benham, $34,500; to James B. Wands, $14,572; to E. W. Dewees, $27,500; to C. W. Lowell, $14,572; to Thomas Adams, $14,500; and to J. H. Oglesby, $3,407 30.

The above warrants were issued under the Legislative voucher appropriations for 1870, 1871 and 1872, but have not been presented what was known as the Pinckney-Smith Legislative vouchers for these years. The warrants in the petition are consolidated in the vouchers of Longstreet, Thurifer, bearing a censor with burning incense; cross-bearer, with the processional cross between two acolytes with lighted candles; the master of ceremonies, acolytes in red and purple cassocks, clergymen in black cassocks and white surplices, bishops with their chaplains celebrating Masses and deacons, Archbishop Williams, clad in pontifical robes, and bearing his crozier; Cardinal McCloskey, clad in his scarlet robes, the papal embassy, consisting of Monsignor Roncetti, Special Ablegate Pashe Ubaldi, wearing a purple cassock, and Count Marefoschi then came a large number of clergymen. Cardinal McCloskey having seated himself on his throne, pontifical high mass was begun. The entire reports of the addresses will be delivered, and rendered with excellent effect. At the conclusion of the first gospel, Right Reverened Bishop Geesbrand deliveredan eloquent sermon, published in his text the second verse of the 83d Psalm.

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RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Train on the Atlantic and Great Western Ditched near Meadville—Three or Four Passengers Injured.

CLEVELAND, April 30.—On Wednesday train No. 3 on the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, ran off the track at Miller's station, about twenty miles from Meadville. The ladies' car was thrown in a ditch. The smoking car, baggage car, and tender of the engine were also off. Three or four passengers were seriously injured, but none, it is believed, seriously hurt.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

TERRIBLE MINE EXPLOSION—THIRTY-FIVE LIVES LOST.

LONDON, May 1st, 2 A. M.—A terrible explosion occurred yesterday afternoon in the Bunker Hill colliery, North Staffordshire, while the miners were at work. At midnight twelve bodies had been taken out. Twenty-three men are yet in the mine. There is no hope that any of them will be recovered alive.

MUTINY AND MURDER ON A SCHOONER BOUND FROM NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON.

LONDON, May 3.—The schooner Jefferson Borden, from New Orleans for this port, has arrived of Porth Leven. The Captain reports that the crew mutinied. The first and second mates were killed, two sailors wounded and put in irons, one sailor wounded and chained to the pump and another dying. The vessel was worked by three hands.

LONDON, May 4.—The following additional particulars have been obtained of the mutiny on the Jefferson Borden: The schooner Jefferson Borden, Patterson master, sailed from New Orleans March 5th for London. When eighteen days from the former port, a mutiny broke out. Captain Patterson and his officers fought the men with revolvers and knives. After a terrible struggle, in which the first and second mates were killed, the Captain succeeded in disabling and securing all the men who resisted. He hailed passing vessels, obtained sufficient hands to work the ship and proceeded on the voyage to London.

ROMISH VIEW OF THE MASONIC INSTALLATION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

LONDON, May 3.—The *Unita Cattolica*, of Rome, comments in bitter terms on the instalation of the Prince of Wales as head of the order of Masons in Great Britain, and declares that the act identifies Angelican Protestantism with Masonry.

Belgium.

AN ANSWER TO GERMANY.

BRUSSELS, April 30.—Belgium sent an answer to-day to Germany's last note. Count Aspremont Lynden, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will make explanations in regard to the correspondence in the Chamber of Representatives Tuesday next.

Germany.

ABOLITION OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

BERLIN, April 30.—The Emperor has given his assent to the introduction of a bill abolishing religious orders in Prussia.

ECCLESIASTICAL LEGISLATION.

BERLIN, May 1.—Dr. Falk, Minister of Public Instruction, introduced a bill in the Lower House of the Diet to-day, providing for the suppression of religious orders in Prussia. Dr. Falk's bill provides that all religious orders shall be expelled from Prussia. Existing establishments are forbidden to receive new members, and their present organization must be dissolved within six months after the passage of the bill. A partial exception is made in favor of religious bodies engaged in the work of education, which may prolong their existence for a time. Those who have been in the care of the sick, may continue their organization, but are liable to dissolution at any moment. Associations thus continuing are to be subject to the supervision of Government officials. The property of convents is not to be confiscated, but will be temporarily administered by the State. The bill retains the provision for the confiscation of property of the Catholic Church passed its third reading in the Chamber yesterday.

BELGIUM'S ANSWER TO THE LAST NOTE.

BERLIN, May 2.—The answer of Belgium to the last German note has been received. It is courteous in tone, merely takes notice of Germany's action in regard to the revision of the penal laws and in no way returns to the subjects of the first reply, except to reserve for a future time the adoption of a resolution in accordance with the friendly declarations contained in that reply.

France.

DEATH OF JEAN FREDERIC DE WALDECK.

PARIS, April 30.—The death is announced of the famous traveler and artist, Jean Frederic de Waldeck, at the extraordinary age of 110 years.

Spain.

REPORTED VICTORIES FOR THE CARLISTS.

LONDON, May 3.—The Carlist Committee has received telegrams reporting great victories by Don Carlos' forces, under command of Sagalls, at Breda, Lerida and Santa Coloma, defeating Alfonso's army, numbered 4,000 men. They lost five chief officers at Breda, and 350 men at Santa Coloma. Another victory for the Carlists, under command of Prince Conde Aranon. The Government troops are said to have lost all their artillery and many prisoners. The Alfonsist General Delatre was killed.

STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

The St. Luke Sunk in the Missouri River —Ten Lives Lost.

ST. LOUIS, May 3.—The steamer St. Luke, bound from Leavenworth, Kas., to St. Louis, struck pier No. 3 of St. Charles bridge, twenty-five miles from here, about ten o'clock last night, and subsequently sunk in fifteen feet of water. Mrs. Dinan, wife of John Dinan, a railroad man of Kansas City or Jefferson City, and her two little girls, aged seven and eight years, were lost, and a ten cent dock passenger is also supposed to be lost, but their names cannot be ascertained. The boat was owned by the St. Louis and Packet Company, and was valued at $30,000. It was insured for $17,000 in Cincinnati and Wheeling offices. The St. Luke had about 100 tons of freight, which, with the boat, will be a total loss.

Later—Some additional particulars regarding the loss of the steamer St. Luke are learned from Captain Keith and passengers who came down from St. Charles by railroad to-day. The night was dark and the lights on the bridge very dim. About thirty feet of the larboard side of the boat was crushed in by the collision with the pier, and part of her machinery torn away. She made water very rapidly, but floated down about two miles, struck a bar in the middle of the river and sunk to the hurricane deck. The passengers rushed from their berths in great terror and ran hither and thither, panic stricken, but all those not lost were finally gathered on the hurricane roof, where they remained till daylight, clad in their night clothes, when a ferryboat came down and took them ashore. Fifty-one persons are reported to have been knocked overboard and drowned at the first crash, but this is not definitely known. Those whose loss is certain, are Wm. Brooks, fireman, of St. Louis; Tom Donnelly, decksweeper; Mrs. Jno. Dinan and two children, who took passage at Kansas City; one male passenger, name unknown, and three deck passengers, names unknown. About one hundred souls were on the steamer, most of whom, outside of the officers and crew, were deck passengers. No list of names was kept by the clerk.

HARRISBURG.

Appointments to be Made in the Offices of Auditor General and Secretary of Internal Affairs.

HARRISBURG, May 1.—Auditor General Temple has agreed on the following appointments:

Chief Clerk—G. W. Waddle, of Greene county.

Corporation Clerk—W. J. Bayard, of Greene county.

Clerks—W. J. Jackman, of Juniata county; Walter Diffenbach, of Columbia county; C. F. Warden, of Westmoreland county; W. H. Reel, of Allegheny county; John M. Murray, of Jefferson county; Joseph G. Garrard, of Fayette county; A. J. Sponsler, of Blair county; Charles Markle, of Washington county; Mr. Sansom, of Indiana county.

Watchman—Alexander Beltzhoover, of Allegheny.

General McCandless, Secretary of Internal Affairs, has appointed W. Hays Grier, of Columbia, Lancaster county, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, and J. Simpson Africa, of Huntingdon, Chief Clerk.

COLUMBUS.

A Man Poisoned by a Careless Drug Clerk.

COLUMBUS, May 2.—Richard Connett, an Englishman, a saw maker by trade, was fatally poisoned to-day. He had been ill with fever for some days, but was getting better. To-day his nurse went to a prominent physician and was given a prescription calling for two ounces of castor oil and one dram of turpentine. This paper was taken to a drug store, and allthough very plainly written, the drug clerk misunderstood it and, instead of castor oil, put up croton oil. The sick man soon after took half an ounce of this terrible mixture, and was a corpse in a few hours.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Pennsylvania Railroad Dividend.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1.—The directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company held a meeting to-day for the purpose of declaring a semi-annual dividend of four per cent.—not the usual five per cent., it being considered a wise and prudent measure to retain the increased proportion of the net earnings to provide means for improvements and additions to the road and its equipment, which will be taxed to the uttermost during the Centennial year. This reduction of dividend has been generally discounted, so the announcement will be measurably without effect.

ST. LOUIS.

Grand Council in the Indian Territory Today—Efforts to Preserve Peace—Destructive Waterspout and Storm—Boy Killed by the Cars.

ST. LOUIS, May 2.—A young son of Barney Hunter, of Greenville, Ill., one of the largest stock dealers in the West, was run over and killed by a train near Brunswick, Mo., yesterday.

A dispatch from Muskogee, Indian Territory, says a waterspout burst Friday, near Honey Spring, and was followed by the severest rain storm for many years. Bridges and culverts were washed away and the track of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, near Elk creek, was submerged and undermined. No loss of live is reported, but great damage was done to property.

The *Republican's* Kansas City special says a council of all the Indian tribes in the Indian Territory is to be held at Okmulgee to-morrow. Indian Agent Hoague passed through here to be present. An attempt will be made to conciliate all the warlike Indians and restore peace without bloodshed. Matters of great importance will be considered, and good results are looked for.

OMAHA.

**Transit of the Black Hills Miners—Tide of

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1875.

THE Venango *Spectator* states that the PARK-MCCREARY contested election case, involving a seat in the Legislature, will probably be decided some time in May. The court being Democratic, however, and PARK, Democrat, the sitting member, it is not impossible that the decision may be held back until after the next session of the Legislature.

THE restriction of the semi-annual dividend of the Pennsylvania road to four per cent. was an act of wise boldness. A railroad corporation that earns and pays eigh per cent. is doing very well; and if it is earning no more than that, it is foolish to undertake to pay more. The corporations that confine their dividends to actual earnings are pursuing the safe course, and the *only* safe course that they can pursue.

CONGRESS, at its late session, imposed a tax of one and a half per cent. upon all real and personal property in the District of Columbia, to meet the liabilities of that District for its local government. The tax was to be assessed by May 1; but the Assessors have deliberately refused to make any return of personal property, so as to throw upon Congress the burden of providing the means for governing the city of Washington. It is to be hoped that, when Congress meets, it will punish this deliberate attempt to escape taxation by refusing to obey the laws regulating it.

APPLICATION has been made at Washington for a patent on a new motive power, which is described as being a sort of cold steam generator from water and air. The inventor claims that it will supersede coal and wood for all purposes except for warmth and cooking, and that it will revolutionize the present system of motive power. The scientific experts who have examined it are reported as stating that the invention is entirely practicable. From the description it would seem to be a mechanical utilization of the forces liberated by carbonic acid gas.

PREVIOUS to the year 1868, the statistics of the wheat production of Great Britain showed an increase in the average yield, of five bushels during the century, or an advance from twenty-three to twenty-eight bushels per acre. It is now claimed that the average from 1868 to the present date is twenty-nine and-a-half bushels. The average of official estimates in this country for the past eight years is 12.04 bushels. Yet our soil is naturally richer than that of Great Britain, nor is there any reason why, with equal carefulness and thoroughness of cultivation, we should not get as heavy crops as they do over there. We farm too much—and too little.

AN INTERESTING passage from one of the sermons of BEECHER, preached some thirteen years ago, has just been unearthed. In view of occurrences and developments of later date, it is more than ordinarily suggestive. The discourse from which the passage is taken was on the value of newspapers as an element of civilization. The great preacher said:

"There is a common vulgar objection about newspapers that they lie so; they don't lie any more than you do. *Man is naturally a lying creature. Truth is a gift from heaven, and few possess it before we get there.*"

Apart from the question how he proposes to get his liars into heaven, the extract is significant in other regards.

THE Chicago grain fleet is all loaded and ready to take its departure, but the water in the harbor is so low the vessels cannot get out. With the present depth of water a large vessel must lose at least from 5,000 to 8,000 bushels of her true carrying capacity any way; to get out of the main river into the lake; and this being the case, the question is what will become of the elevators in the branches, since if a vessel cannot get down again it is little use for her to go to an elevator in the branches. In order to secure a margin at all over expenses in the transportation of grain, the largest vessels must be employed. The papers say the prospect is "not cheerful." We should think not, indeed.

THE United States Treasury has, at present, nearly eleven and a half million dollars more in its vaults than it had at the corresponding date last year. There is now gold enough on hand to meet the requirements of the sinking fund and pay the July interest, with a surplus of several millions, if there should be no more receipts until the close of the current fiscal year. Less year, this time, at the close of the tenth month of the fiscal year, the debt had been reduced during the year but little more than $2,000,000. The reduction at the end of the tenth month of this year is $11,000,000. This is doing considerably better than some of the leading Treasury officers had expected.

LIKE most other States which have attempted the experiment, Prohibition in Iowa is practically a failure, and the leading journals are now fully engaged in discussing the best methods of supplanting it. The general expression of opinion seems to be in favor of a stringent license law. One of the strongest and most fervid temperance advocates, Hon. C. C. COLE, a judge of the Supreme Court, who a year ago made a public speech in which he strongly adhered to the prohibitory law as the most efficient remedy for intemperance, has lately changed front, and is now writing a series of articles in which he admits its failure and recommends the substitution of a rigorous tax system in its stead.

THE various claims set up by various places, that they preceded the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia in 1776, in declaring themselves independent in 1775, have all, we think, been exploded. Westmoreland county, on the 15th of May, 1775, and Mecklenburg, North Carolina, on the 31st of May, both held meetings which passed resolutions sympathizing with those who had been attacked at Lexington and Concord by the British troops, and preparing the way for the formation of military companies for their own protection; but the idea of national independence was not at that time thought of either in those places or elsewhere. That idea, as JEFFERSON and ADAMS unite in witnessing, was first expressed in April, 1776, and was then barely whispered. The people of Westmoreland and Mecklenburg deserve remembrance for their patriotism in 1775, but the credit of leading off in favor of national independence does not belong to either.

THE Massachusetts Board of Health publishes a table of the mortality in various cities of the Union. The average in St. Louis is given at 16.27 per 1,000 of population; Buffalo, 18.46; Milwaukee, 19.09; Philadelphia, 19.54; Washington, D. C., 19.72; Providence, 19.86; Chicago, 20.31; Baltimore, 21.14; Detroit, 21.69; Boston, 23.60; Brooklyn, 24.66; Pittsburgh, 24.69; New York, 27.61; Newark, 29.16. According to this table, our city, instead of appearing as one of the healthiest in the Union, which it really is, appears as among the unhealthiest. The Massachusetts Board of Health, in making it, probably took the total of our population from the census, where it is set down as 86,000; but, since the census was taken, the bounds of the city have been enlarged, and the population of the enlarged city was in 1870, about 130,000. The mortality returns for 1874 were from the enlarged city, and the rate per 1,000 should be based upon 130,000 and not upon 86,000, as it clearly has been, in this case.

THE Boston *Post* (free trade Democrat) is troubled with the gloomiest kind of forebodings with reference to the future of the country, because "our imports have fallen away more than forty per cent. since 1872." The fears of the *Post* are entirely groundless. The decrease in importations principably results from our decreased purchases of costly foreign fabrics that are really not required, and of other manufactures which should and will hereafter be produced by our own workmen at home. It is to be borne in mind, also, that there has been, during the period in question, a steady increase in the aggregate yearly value of our exports, as is shown by the following table:

Fiscal year 1872	$571,989,467
Fiscal year 1873	677,282,974
Calendar year 1874	702,492,124
Calendar year 1874	702,529,886

It will be seen that the increase last year over 1872 amounted to $130,540,379; and this in spite of the panic of 1873, with its resultant depression in almost every branch of industrial and commercial enterprise.

REFERRING to the approaching reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Chicago, and to the generous invitation extended to all ex-rebel soldiers "who recognize the American flag as an emblem of nationality, undivided and indivisible," to unite with them on that occasion, the Austin *Democratic Statesman*, the official organ of its party in Texas, shows what kind of a desire it has for the restoration of fraternal feelings, by declaring that in 1865-6, "when an appeal was made to Chicago for bread for the starving people of Northern Mississippi, then recently desolated by armies, the Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade proposed to send arsenic instead of flour." This charge is, of course, as false as it is infamous. Still there will be found hundreds of people in Texas to believe it, and it is the circulation of just such atrocious calumnies as these which tends, in the South, to keep alive the baleful spirit that has thus far since the war prevented the closing of the "bloody chasm" and kept the masses of that section sullenly and resentfully sucking their thumbs, instead of setting heartily and cheerfully to work, for the redemption of themselves and their States from the retributive consequences of the unholy rebellion.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.

Pennsylvania was probably the first, or among the first, of the States to adopt the system of having County Superintendents of the common schools; and many of the Western and Southwestern States followed her example, believing it to be safe from the fact that she had found it expedient or necessary.

The principal object of this County Superintendency was to secure a competent central authority in each county for the examination of teachers and the granting of teachers' certificates. There was given, along with this, a general power of supervision over the schools, but the examination of teachers was the main object aimed at.

That, upon the whole, after eighteen years' experience of the system, the standard of the qualification of teachers has been raised, and is now much higher and better than it was, cannot be questioned; but that the same end could not have been as quickly and as well reached in some other way, is open to discussion. The experiment of the Superintendency is a step in the right direction, and it has been well tested; yet it was only an experiment, and it remains to inquire, now, whether it is not time to take another step in advance.

Throughout the Western States there is a growing restlessness under the Superintendency system. One or two States have thrown it off altogether, and in others its abolition is earnestly talked about. The hostility to it does not grow so much, as some suppose, out of opposition to the free school system, as out of the manifest defects of the plan of placing in the hands of one man the powers of an autocrat in the matter of selecting teachers and regulating schools. In the comparatively small communities of the average of Western counties, the workings of the system of County Superintendency have been brought nearer home to the people than in the denser population of most of our counties; and this accounts for the fact that they have grown restive under it with less experience of it than we have.

The elections which have taken place this year for County and County Superintendents have not, as a general thing, tended to strengthen confidence in the system through the exalted character of the Superintendents chosen. Here and there, as in the case of the city of Pittsburgh, the right man gets into the right place; but in the majority of instances the result is what generally follows an effort to fill a square hole with a round stick. The place has been sought for its emoluments, and not with a view to its high duties; and the triennial struggle has been a mere struggle for office without a controlling regard to qualification. It is not necessary to go into particulars; but we are certain that the most candid observer of our common school system will not find, in the character of the men chosen, any reason for extra enthusiasm or exultation.

These men have been chosen for three years, and we hope that, within that period, the friends of common school education will be able to devise some better plan for attaining the ends aimed at in their selection. We are for holding on to what we have until the way is clear for something better, but we are sincere in expressing the hope that this is the last election of the kind we shall ever see.

There are eighty-six Superintendents in this State, and their aggregate salaries exceed $100,000 annually. This is no one-tenth of the sum annually voted by the State for the support of common schools, and the sum thus spent is large enough to secure us, if wisely expended, a much better and more useful system of school examinations than we now have. If the main object is to secure good teachers by a thorough examination of them, it should either cost less or be better done.

The city of Philadelphia has no School Superintendent; yet she has good teachers and first-class schools. Three thousand dollars of the annual State appropriation goes to the Teachers' Institute in lieu of the salary of a School Superintendent; and we are left to infer that that Institute performs the duties elsewhere imposed upon Superintendents. Whether this is the case or not, it is certain that Philadelphia never has had a School Superintendent, and gets along remarkably well without one. We shall be fairly content to see the rest of the State have as good schools as she has: and we want to know why what is good for her is not equally good for the rest of the State.

It is not our business or purpose to frame a substitute for the present system; but it is our duty to direct attention to these matters of public interest, and we have discharged it in calling upon the friends of education to look at these things carefully. The school system is a progressive one. It had a troubled and difficult beginning, and has since had to force against many discouragements. But it has gone steadily onward, in spite of all obstacles, and it has now arrived at a period where a new departure becomes necessary. The Superintendent system has done much good, and has greatly elevated the calling of a teacher above its former low level; but it has had its day. It has run its career, and the time has come for going up one step higher.

We have nothing to say, personally, against or about the men lately chosen as Superintendents; but we are earnest in saying that we never want again to see the school directors of a county gathered together into a sort of nominating convention, and pulled and hauled, this way and that, by rival candidates and their friends. This is beneath the dignity of a system so grand, so beneficial, and so all-pervading in its influences as our common school system is, and it is the present duty of its friends to study over the situation carefully and thoughtfully, and give us some plan more in harmony with the high character of the great cause of public education.

CENTRALIZATION.

It is a remarkable fact that the States of the Union which bring local government the nearest to the people have always been the most favorably inclined to the idea of a strong central or National Government; while the States which exclude the people from any active part in their local governments are the most earnest in opposing centralization in the General Government.

Thus, for instance, the New England States have been noted, from the time of their original formation as colonies to the present time, for an extremely democratic form of government. Their "towns," which answer to our townships, have always been complete autonomies. The town-meeting is the annual meeting of all the citizens as a legislative body, at which the people, in mass, decide all questions affecting their local and political existence. They determine who shall administer their local government; what amount of taxes shall be levied, and for what purposes; what bridges shall be built; how much shall be spent on the roads, how much for schools, and how much for the poor; and dispose of any and all other questions that come up, affecting the separate political existence of the town or township. This is the government of the people, by the people directly, and for the people, without the intervention of any other power. The country in New England is but an incidental to the towns are the sovereigns, and these people, who govern themselves in the most simple and direct way, have never been much afraid of "centralization" in the National Government. They have preferred, rather, that the National Government should be clothed with strong and effective powers. So long as their own home government is left undisturbed in their own hands, they feel no terror at any power the National Government may be authorized to exercise.

Virginia, and the Southern States generally, on the other hand, never had this freedom of local government. There is nothing in Virginia or Kentucky that corresponds to the "town" of New England. The county, with them, is every thing. The county does all that is or can be done. The county builds the bridges, mends and makes the roads, levies the taxes, and carries on whatever local government there is. The people have little to say, directly, in the management of local affairs. All power is centralized in the county government. Yet these people, the victims of centralization, have always been and are now most terribly afraid of "centralization" in the National Government! The home of the resolutions of 1798 was in Virginia, and Virginia and Kentucky have always been their most resolute defenders.

We are reminded of this inconsistency by what has lately been taking place in New York. The New York Democracy, like their brethren in Virginia, are much alarmed at the tendency to "centralization" in national affairs, and their orators grow very eloquent upon that theme; yet this same party has just attempted to pass through the New York Legislature a bill to give Governor Tilden power to remove every State officer elected by the people, without notice and without reason. The bill, as passed, does not go that far; but that was the original proposition. This is "centralization" in its strongest and most odious form; and it is pretty safe to conclude that those who cry out the loudest against "centralization" in Federal affairs, will be found its strongest advocates in local affairs. And vice versa.

Upon the whole, we prefer the New England to the Virginia system. The people who possess and exercise the full rights of local self-government, will never be likely to suffer from any concentration of power in the hands of the General Government.

THE Grand Army of the Republic at Chicago, anxious to wipe out old grudges, invited several Confederate officers to unite with them in a grand reunion on the 12th, 13th and 14th of May. Among the rest BEAUREGARD was proposed as a guest; but inasmuch as there was a good deal of discussion over the propriety of inviting that bloodhound, he has addressed a letter to the Governor of Tennessee, in which he enters into a long defense of himself from the charge that he favored the massacre of the Union soldiers captured by the rebels. He claimed, in this letter, that three things induced him to recommend these wholesale murders: The refusal of the Federal Government for a time to recognize captive rebels as prisoners of war, the "emaciated condition" of returned rebel prisoners, and the "vandalism" of Sherman in Georgia. The Philadelphia *Bulletin*, however, exposes the falsehood of this pretence. It says:

"The truth is that Beauregard urged this policy chiefly because Mr. Lincoln proposed to emancipate the slaves. The following letter was sent to a member of the rebel Congress at Richmond just after the publication by the President of the preliminary proclamation respecting the slaves:

"CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 13, 1862.—*Hon. Wm. P. Miles, Richmond, Va.*—Has the bill for the execution of Abolition prisoners after January next passed? If not, it and England will be stirred into action. It is high time to proclaim the black flag after that period. Let the execution be with the garrote.

[Signed.] 'G. T. BEAUREGARD.'

"The author of such a letter, no matter who he is, deserves eternal infamy. It cannot be anything but. It stands in history as a naked plea for a return to methods of warfare which have been abandoned by all but the lowest races of savages; and coming from an officer who held high rank in the Confederate service, it did much to justify the opinion held by Northern people that the Southerners were disposed to conduct the contest with a degree of brutality which was in violation of the rules of civilized warfare. The time may have come now to shake hands across the bloody chasm, but no honorable or self-respecting soldier will desire to fraternize with the man who tried to introduce assassination of unarmed prisoners as a feature of the conflict."

THE Supreme Court of the United States, in its decision of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad case, went out of its way to issue an *obiter dictum* upon the matter of the general powers of Congress over the question of transportation. This part of the decision was doubtless intended for the Grangers; and, while it has not the force of the regular opinions of the Court, may be taken as an indication of what it thinks upon that subject. In brief, then, it holds that the regulation of commerce *between* the States belongs to Congress, and not to the States or State Legislatures. The difficulty is to draw the line and say where the power of the State ends and that of Congress begins. The States cannot impede commerce in their attempts to regulate it within their own borders; and if they attempt to do it, so as to impose restrictions upon travel and traffic, Congress, to protect the citizens of the nation, will exercise to the utmost degree its constitutional power to control inter-State commerce. The progress of merchandise must be unimpeded. Commercially, this is one country, and the general interest of the whole country demands that there shall be no interference with the due progress of commerce. No local interests can be permitted to interfere with this great principle, but the rights of the State must at the same time be protected and respected. This opinion is a little clearer than mud, but is still very indefinite. We infer from it that a law passed by Congress chartering a railroad company to build a road, say from New York or Philadelphia to St. Louis, would be above the State powers, and not as an infringement upon the rights of the several States traversed by such a road; but that an act of Congress to remedy any restrictions placed upon commerce by State legislation, would be sustained by it. This conclusion, upon the whole, does not seem to us to be very favorable to the views of the Grangers upon the same subject.

Reduction of Interest.

We sometimes read in the Democratic or Liberal journals laudatory efforts to prove that the Republican reduction of the national debt is merely nominal and made to appear from time to time by an adroit marshalling of figures in the regular debt statements. But there is one argument on this subject that should not be passed over, it is in a statement of the principal and interest of the debt since June 30, 1867:

	Principal.	Interest.
1867, June 30	$2,481,126,003	$143,781,572
1868, June 30	2,611,687,851	140,404,045
1869, June 30	2,588,452,213	130,894,242
1870, June 30	2,481,788,127	129,235,481
1871, June 30	2,353,411,033	125,576,555
1872, June 30	2,253,251,328	117,357,839
1873, June 30	2,234,482,993	104,570,628
1874, May 31	2,145,368,478	98,760,141
1875, April 1	2,135,634,778	98,760,141

The load of interest is the true test of the weight of debt, and the reduction of that has been nearly forty-six millions of dollars. More than twenty-seven millions of this reduction have been effected since the year 1870 under the operation of the funding law, which was purely a Republican measure, opposed by every Democrat and Liberal, and ridiculed as impracticable and absurd by every self-sufficient journal in the interest of the money-lenders, gold speculators, "tight money" cliques and screwed Republican politicians. This funding scheme is still at work, steadily reducing the load of interest, and should the Republican party remain in power for the next few years, the entire load of interest will, at the end of that time, be gradually reduced to near fifty millions. No portion of the debt has yet been funded below five per cent., but the ability to replace the four-and-a-half and four per cent. bonds will be demonstrated in time; and in fact the funding scheme will evidently be persisted in until no portion of the debt shall bear more than four per cent. interest. In fact, no measure enacted by Congress has been more unjustly attacked or undervalued than the funding act. Although the process seems to be slow, the tremendous crash of 1873 and the embarrassments ensuing must be held to have been sufficient to account for it. Under the circumstances it is extraordinary that the revulsion did not put a stop entirely to the funding.

When the funding act was pending in the Senate there were many who were zealous to allow no higher rate of interest on the debt than three per cent., an attempt to enforce which would probably have been a failure, as reduction from six per cent. to three was too sudden. Experience has proven that the reduction to five per cent. is practicable on the whole of the debt. And if that were all done it would be found equally practical to fund the maturing debt in four and a half and four per cent. bonds. So much for how much public men may discuss the advisability of leaving the debt for posterity to pay, the people will not rest satisfied unles they see the load regularly diminishing. Even supposing that a Democratic national administration should load us up again by assuming the State debts and squandering more millions on war bounties and claims, the first return of the Republicans to power would reduce the aggregate again.

According to the above table President Grant's administration for the last quarter of Johnson's have reduced the debt to the extent of $544,491,825. Ours is the only great nation thus engaged in the gradual and systematic liquidation of its debt month after month and year after year. If the Treasury Department had not in hand the colossal task of preparing for the resumption of the specie basis and the resumption of specie payments, the arrangement for placing the four-and-a-half and four per cent. bonds might easily be perfected, and although it is objectionable to have all the negotiations carried on in Europe, it is satisfactory to know that the course of trade is steadily bringing the bonds home again. When the funding scheme was enacted by Congress the annual interest was $129,235,498, and the President, in his annual message, estimated that by this act the interest could be reduced to $117,357,839, and there stopped. But it will be perceived that the interest is reduced already to $98,602,161 without getting below a five per cent. rate. These are figures worthy of the attention of reflecting citizens, business men, tax-payers and property owners, at a time when the Democratic party is seeking to obtained power as the advocate of a different and opposite policy—*Philadelphia North American.*

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4, 1875.

Insane Man at the White House.

This afternoon the attendants in charge at the White House were startled by a thundering rapping at the front door. On the door being opened, a man who was on the outside threw in a large bundle of papers, which he said contained the details of a plot by other nations to overthrow this Republic. The man was found to be insane and, as he persisted in demanding to see the President to explain the dangerous condition of the country, he was handed over to the charge of a police officer, who took him away.

Mr. Stephens Explaining.

Alexander H. Stephens has been taken so much to task by his constituents for the good words which he has spoken of President Grant, that he is now filling several columns daily in the Georgia papers in attempts to explain.

Special Dispatch to the Commorial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1875.

Removal of Commissioner Douglass.

Nothing has been talked of here to-day but the changes, past and prospective, in the Treasury Department. It was mentioned some weeks since in these dispatches that the President contemplated making a change in the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Notwithstanding this announcement, Commissioner Douglass states that he was much surprised when Secretary Bristow informed him of his removal.

It is proper to state that there are no charges whatever against Mr. Douglass, who has always been regarded as a good officer, but the President, for reasons satisfactory to him, determined upon the change. Senator Cameron, who has been in town since his return from New Orleans, went up to the White House to-day to inquire into the reasons for Mr. Douglass' removal, and was so informed by the President.

It is thought, among the friends of Mr. Douglass, that he will be otherwise provided for, either by an appointment to the bench of the Court of Claims or to the United States Judgeship in Pennsylvania, if Judge McCandless retires. On this point, however, it may be said that, although it is not impossible that the President may do something for Mr. Douglass, he has at present no such intention.

Ex-Senator Pratt, of Indiana, who has accepted the position of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, will not assume the duties of the office before the first of June, and possibly not before the first of July.

It is understood that there are other changes shortly to be made among the higher officials in the Treasury, and it is supposed other Pennsylvanians beside Mr. Douglass will have to walk the plank. As a consequence, there is much uneasiness among some of the higher officials, and a good many applications are being made to office to-day to ask his views on the situation. General Bristow had, however, gone to Philadelphia, and they were left in a state of suspense.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4, 1875.

POSTAL CHANGES IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The following postal changes have been ordered for Pennsylvania:

Offices established—Canoe, Clarion county, J. W. McDowell, postmaster; Foley, Washington county, Thomas Wiest, postmaster; Shanks Run, Mifflin county, Jacob Casner, postmaster.

Office discontinued—Spangler, Elk county.

Postmasters appointed—J. C. Hickey, Bay, Mercer county; Udo Simon, Bredensburgh, Northumberland county; D. Beam, Tinker Hill, Lebanon county; J. McNies, Centreport, Berks county; J. H. Bieber, Fredericksville, Berks county; J. J. R. Smith, Mollinger's Mills, Lycoming; Ezra Holden, New Jerusalem, Berks county; Wm. Charles, Conyngham, Luzerne county; E. R. Frick, Gilbertsville, Montgomery county; David Lawall, Hiteo, Northampton county; Miss E. J. Towner, Mitchell's Creek, Tioga county; Ephraim Spring, Randolph, Crawford county; Mrs. Mary Reinhold, Reinhold Station, Lancaster county.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1875.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio for the week ending May 6, 1875 (Patents dated April 20, 1875). Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL by A. H. Evans & Co., patent solicitors, May building, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

S. Bornheisel, Green Park, Millstone Balance.

E. Birms and E. A. Barnes, Pittsburgh, Casting Shovel Blanks.

T. J. Blake, Pittsburgh, Manufacture of Glove-fastening.

C. Burnham and J. G. Saite, Philadelphia, Gas-stove.

G. F. Pence, Reading, Expanding Bit.

G. T. Godley, Philadelphia, Spring for Vehicles.

W. Strickler, Lebanon, Insulated Telegraph Wire.

H. J. Fayman, Philadelphia, Boot Machine.

J. W. Witmer, Manor township, Lubricator.

J. Anderson, Allegheny, Soda Water Generator.

W. Doe, Reno, Oil Can Nozzle.

N. Keely, Leverington, Paper Barrel.

F. King, Johnstown, Water Wheel.

H. F. Schmidt, Pittsburgh, Stamp.

J. C. Wallace, Pittsburgh, Crucible Mold.

A. A. Adams, Pittsburgh, Manufacture of Glass Mold.

H. W. Baltz, Sr., Philadelphia, Car Starter.

G. A. Reider, Philadelphia, Paper Cigar Box.

A. Bierer, W. Womrath, Car Brake.

J. H. Blaisdell, Philadelphia, Molding Machine.

D. Colbock, Philadelphia, Paper Feeding Machine.

C. Disston, Philadelphia, Plasterers' Trowel.

J. A. Eberly, Reamstown, Washing Machine.

D. Fergus, Philadelphia, Steam Heater.

T. J. Gordon and D. H. Bumpus, Rouseville, Manufacture of Oils.

G. Hitchcock, Philadelphia, Pavior's Rammer.

S. Horner, Jr., Philadelphia, Carpet Fabric.

J. L. Knowlton, Sharon Hill, Saw Sharpening Machine.

E. W. Maxson, Nicholson, Washing Machine.

A. E. Nickerson and L. C. Streeter, Allegheny township, Pumping Engine.

J. Peabody, Philadelphia, Knitting Machine Needle.

E. A. Phillipi, Reading, Knife Cleaner.

E. M. Robinson, Philadelphia, Fare Box.

T. Welbraham, Philadelphia, Lathe.

Reissue—W. B. Ives, Pittsburgh, Metallic Vessels.

W. B. Scaife, Pittsburgh, Metallic Vessels.

Design—H. C. Lees, Philadelphia, Badge.

Trade Marks—W. Conway, Philadelphia, Soap.

G. C. Napheys & Son, Philadelphia, Lard.

P. J. Ritter, Philadelphia, Jelly, etc.

The Sumner Heating Stove Company, Pittsburgh, Stove.

Dilworth & Co., Philadelphia, Coffees, Teas and Spices.

OHIO.

W. M. Bernhard, Morristown, Wagon Tongue.

C. W. Brockismer, Bridgeport, Manufacture of Glass Ware.

J. Curtis, Cincinnati, Vehicle Wheels.

J. Thornton, Cleveland, Keg Fastener.

H. Holmes and Wm. Birch, Cincinnati, Lamp.

W. W. Bostwick, Cincinnati, Jelly Press.

T. S. Cook, Cleveland, Rounding Metallic Rods.

J. Farman, Cleveland, Lubricator.

E. Horton, Cleveland, Dental Bib.

J. Jones, Hamilton, and C. A. Scott, Cincinnati, Clamping Device.

E. F. Gibson, Cleveland, Keg Fastener.

G. L. Shepard, Columbus, Bed Bottom.

J. Earnshaw, Cincinnati, Rail Water Cut Off.

C. Fawcett, St. Clairsville, Rail Water Cut Off.

J. T. Hess, Massillon, Rain Water Cut Off.

F. W. Owen, Granville, Fence.

G. O. Ross, Marion, Farm Gate.

E. Way, Springfield, Mangle and Ironing Table.

Reissue—J. D. Gray, Cincinnati, Oil Cans.

Design—J. Hardin, Cleveland, Binding Post.

Trade Mark—Fjeberg & Workum, Cincinnati, Distilled Spirits.

SPECIAL AGENT HESTER DISMISSED.

J. G. Hester, special agent under the Department of Justice, and known in connection with political arrests in Alabama, has been dismissed.

PHILADELPHA.

Senatorial and Representative Delegates to the Republican State Convention.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, May 5, 1875.

The following are the delegates to the Republican State Convention:

Senatorial—First district, Wm. S. Douglass; Second, John Welsh; Third, Andrew Knorr; Fourth, Charles Thomson Jones; Fifth, Wm. B. Mann; Sixth, H. H. Bingham; Seventh, Wm. R. Leeds; Eighth, John Hause.

Representative—First district, William Calhoun; Second, Harry C. Selby, Joseph H. Thum; Third, Harry Hunter; Fifth, Thomas Moore and James O'Brien; Sixth, Charles W. Ridgeway; Seventh, Nathan Spring and James H. Campbell; Eighth, Charles S. Boyer and Wm. Hendricks; Tenth, Nicholas F. English; Eleventh, Wm. Almendinger; Twelfth, Thomas J. Smith; Thirteenth, Henry C. Dunlap; Fourteenth, James Devereux; Fifteenth, Harry Huhn and John E. Reyburn; Sixteenth, Joseph R. Ash; Seventeenth, Harrison Snyder; Eighteenth, Jacob C. Cramp and William Lawson; Nineteenth, John Martin, Thos. Carson and John Doerr; Twentieth, David H. Lane and Robt. C. Titternary; Twenty-first, Geo. W. Fuhrer; Twenty-second, Joseph M. Hill; Twenty-third, Chas. B. Salter; Twenty-fourth, James Newell; Twenty-fifth, John C. Sees; Twenty-sixth, John Conrkliery and Robert Carnes; Twenty-seventh, Ellis P. Phipps; Twenty-eighth, Robt. W. Mackey.

ALABAMA.

The Spencer Investigation—Testimony of a Legislator.

MONTGOMERY, May 5.—J. S. Perrin, late Republican member of the Legislature from Wilcox county, testified as follows before the committee now investigating the means by which Spencer secured his election to the United States Senate: "Troops were ordered retained in Alabama before the election, on the requisition of myself and others, it having been understood that Spencer had arranged for troops to be put at the disposal of certain officers whenever intimidation was necessary. These troops, accompanied by United States Marshals who had fictitious warrants with citizens' names prominently displayed and shown to persons who would inform them, were paraded in various counties. I shot a hole in my hat and reported that I had been attacked by Ku-Klux, and I sent troops to arrest the mythical assailants. I kept the troops as long as I could use them as a political machine. Our purpose was to secure the Legislature at all hazards and elect Spencer." A number of witnesses testify to the use of money to effect the same purpose.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

PRESBYTERIAN SYMPATHY FOR MOODY AND SANKEY.

LONDON, May 4.—At the opening of the Presbyterian Synod to-day, the Moderator referred to the revival movement set on foot by Moody and Sankey, and expressed cordial sympathy with them in their religious work.

Italy.

ILLNESS OF THE POPE.

ROME, May 4.—The Pope is again under treatment of physicians.

Belgium.

THE REPLY TO GERMANY'S SECOND NOTE.

BRUSSELS, May 4.—In the Chamber of Representatives, to-day, M. Aspremont Lynden, Minister of Foreign Affairs, read the reply of the Belgian Government to the German note of February 15. It denies that Belgium has declined to consider Germany's demands. The question of fulfilling obligations to prevent subjects from disturbing neighboring countries, applies not to Belgium alone, but to all States which regard it their duty to watch over peace. When the Belgian Government is apprised of steps taken in Germany and other countries to remedy deficiencies in their penal laws, it will examine its own in their bearing on the customs, traditions and liberties of Belgium. With the sincerest desire to co-operate in the maintenance of good relations, Belgium is determined to fulfil the duties of a neutral State and to cultivate the friendship of Germany.

M. Aspremont, after reading the note, stated that the investigation of the Duchesne affair was in progress. He closed with an appeal to the patriotism of all parties.

PARTICULARS OF THE JEFFERSON BORDEN MUTINY.

LONDON, May 4.—The mutineers on board the schooner Jefferson Borden, Captain Patterson, from New Orleans, March 5th, for London, took the opportunity to carry out their plot to seize the vessel when on the watch with the first mate and a boy. The latter was gagged and the men then struck the first mate from behind, fracturing his skull. The second mate, coming to the rescue, was thrown overboard alive. The boy got free and alarmed Captain Patterson, who, coming from the cabin with two revolvers, fired upon the mutineers with effect. One of them received seven bullets, the second was wounded in the stomach, and the third may live until the vessel reaches London.

MORNING PRESS ON GLADSTONE'S LEXINGTON LETTER.

LONDON, May 5, 4:30 A. M.—The *Standard* severely criticises the letter from Gladstone read at the fraternity celebration of the battle of Lexington. It remarks that the habit of toadying to Americans is discreditable in English public men and journalists. The results of the republican experiment in the United States are corruption of public life, extinction of public spirit, supremacy of the minority, disgust of honorable men with politics, and the transfer of the Government into the hands of corrupt, unscrupulous and ignorant persons.

The *Times* fully indorses Mrs. Gladstone's letter, and says it would be melancholy if the first great attempt to combine English-speaking people should end in anarchy. Although there is nothing at present to justify such fears, grave evils exist in some American institutions, which must be remedied if progress is to continue.

CHRISTIAN CONVENTION—THE MOODY REVIVAL.

LONDON, May 5.—The Christian Convention met to-day in the Haymarket Theater. Mr. Moody, the American revivalist, was chosen Chairman. Canon Batersby, of the See of Carlisle, Canon Freemantle, chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Chalmondeley, Rev. Mr. Aiken, and many hundreds of other delegates, representing the principal towns in the Kingdom, were present. Rev. Mr. Kelman, of Edinburgh, in an address, stated that the results of the work of Moody and Sankey in Scotland were truly marvelous. Three thousand persons had been converted, and the number of drunkards and cheater-goers who had been reclaimed was remarkable. The delegate from Rome gave an interesting account of the progress there. Addresses were also delivered by other delegates from the Continent.

ANOTHER LUNATIC AFTER BISMARCK.

LONDON, May 6, 5:30 A. M.—A special from Berlin to the *Times* reports that a working engineer, residing in the suburbs of Berlin, has been arrested while prowling around the mansion of Prince Bismarck. A loaded pistol was found in his pocket. He is temporarily lodged in the lunatic asylum.

England.

RESIGNATION OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR DOUBTED.

LONDON, May 5.—The *Globe* says there is reason to believe that the *Daily News'* report of the intended resignation of the Earl of Pembroke is unfounded.

PARIS ALARMED—THE STRONG WAR PARTY IN GERMANY—THE EMPEROR URGED TO TAKE FRANCE AGAIN BY THE THROAT.

LONDON, May 6.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that uneasiness prevails in well-informed circles in Paris. The most serious minds believe that danger is impending. Politicians from abroad, as well as those claiming to be well informed at home, assert that peace or war depends on the approaching meeting of the Czar and the German Emperor. No one denies that a powerful party in Germany, comprising the entire military element, feels that the late treaty was too lenient; that the indemnity paid has already recovered its value, and that the possession of Belfort by France is dangerous to Germany; that France is reorganizing rapidly and will soon be able to furnish a formidable army for any alliance with other nations; that Germany is no richer than before the war; her finances and social organization cannot long support the expense of the present armaments, and she cannot disarm in the face of France. The military party in Germany are convinced that never was there a more favorable opportunity than the present to secure for their country a long era of prosperity and peace; war ought to be promptly undertaken; it is necessary to march on Paris and take up position there before any peace can be signed which takes Belfort from France, limits her active army and exacts ten milards in twenty years. Paris could not withstand a siege, and would so last. All the powers have confined themselves to timid friendly representations with regard to the Belgian notes, which only proves that Germany is isolated, and that the blunder of a treaty which leaves France ready to prey on her neighbors at any time is unrectified. What may be promptly executed at an insignificant sacrifice would, two years hence, cost oceans of blood. Russia must be convinced of this necessity. The *Times'* correspondent adds: "It would be untrue to say that these arguments are accepted, even in Germany, outside of a particular party, or that they would be equally untrue to say that these menaces are destined to be realized. The diplomatic world, even in Germany, declare that she cannot fight against an enemy who declares for peace, and the Germans scout the suppositions. The Emperor has scruples, but the party of immediate action urge him as a duty to sink all considerations in order to save the country. They insist that France be made to accept a reassuring treaty if she will not fight. Germany, in order to have time to reorganize Prussia as the cause of the uneasiness, must solemnly disclaim the above theories."

The *Times*, in conclusion, calls on the Powers to suppress the agitations raised by alarmists and the alarmed in Paris.

Germany.

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS CORRECTED.

BERLIN, May 4.—The *North German Gazette* gives a positive denial to the statement in American papers that a commissioner has been organized here to facilitate the return to this country of German emigrants in the United States.

Spain.

PAPAL NUNCIO RECEIVED BY THE KING.

MADRID, May 4.—King Alfonso received the Papal Nuncio to-day. He said he was aware of his duties of gratitude and affection to the Holy Father, and should fulfill them.

HARTFORD.

Organization of the Legislature—Inauguration of Governor Ingersoll.

HARTFORD, May 5.—The Legislature to-day organized by the election of C. B. Bowers, President *pro tem* of the Senate, and Charles Durand, of Derby, Speaker of the House, and other Democratic caucus nominees for the minor offices. The inauguration parade was not so large as usual. Ex-Governors Jewell and Hawley, and Congressmen Barnum, Phelps and Landers participated in the ceremonies. In the afternoon Governor Ingersoll read his message to the Legislature. It is mainly a business document, dealing in the affairs of the State.

PORT AU PRINCE

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, May 8, 1875.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 5, 1875.

It is proposed to hold a convention of bank officers at Saratoga in July next, for the purpose of having a good time at that famous watering place, and of seeing the University boat races, which come off on the 14th of that month. This object, however, is not stated in the circular calling the meeting. The organizers disclaim the idea of dictating reforms or of changing any laws, or of making innovations on existing rules for the government of banks or their business; but, they state, they intend to improve each other by meeting together, making each others' acquaintance, and talking over matters of concern to all bank officers, to make their official duties more easy in the future, and to leave a "green spot" in the pathway of the past, that it can be a pleasure to look upon, all of which are very commendable.

Bankers, as a rule, are not talkers—to which rule we could mention one or two loquacious exceptions, who harp erratically on their peculiar hobbies—and in a convention of the size the one at Saratoga will probably be, some of our most sagacious, practical and successful bank officers would make but a poor show as speakers. It is therefore to be hoped that most of the subjects will be considered through the medium of papers written by practical bankers and presented by them to the appropriate committees.

All bank officers will be entitled to a place in the meeting, yet it would be especially fitting that the Clearing House Association should select two or more gentlemen to represent the interests of this city. There could, without doubt, be a number of gentlemen in banking circles found who would ably and efficiently represent their constituency.

The committee having charge of the matter have asked for suggestions as to their project, and subjects of discussion. In reply to this the *Financial Chronicle* suggests as a subject American banking, its growth, its present position, its improvement as compared with previous periods, its dangers and its prospective progress. Another subject should be the much discussed practice of paying interest on daily balances.

The *Chronicle* continues: Still more important, if possible, is the question of cash reserves. This subject might with advantage be discussed from different sides in several different papers. There for example, is the theory of bank reserves in this country and abroad, comprising the legislation, the usage, the necessity, and the evils of benefits resulting therefrom. Then there is the question of publicity. In this country, we have so long been accustomed to a weekly publication in the newspapers, of the deposits, loans, circulation, and cash reserves of the banks, that we can hardly realize the state of public opinion abroad, where such statistics are regarded as scarcely within the purview of bank legislation. Excepting the new bank law of Germany, we do not remember any foreign banking system which exacts so much stringent publicity as our own.

The causes and the effects of the panic will occupy much of the attention of the convention, and from it we may hope to have generated some practical suggestions that may tend to avert altogether or to mitigate the effects of a like occurrence during the present generation.

—A correspondent asks us to what extent the Pennsylvania Railroad is bound to provide for the payment of the interest on the bonds on the Danville, Hazleton and Wilkesbarre Railroad. By reference to the report of the Investigating Committee, page 204, we learn that the road was "leased to Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at cost, with a proviso that the Pennsylvania Railroad will advance sufficient moneys to the purchase of coupons, or shall guarantee the interest on its bonded debt, and should the earnings be insufficient to liquidate any portion of the coupons, the Pennsylvania Railroad will not foreclose until the expiration of the lease. Terms of lease, thirty-three years, from 1872. Income for 1873 not sufficient to pay interest on bonded debt."

The total issue of first mortgage bonds amounts to $1,400,000, and they are due October, 1888.

From the statement quoted above, it would appear as if the interest was secure, whether the principal was or not.

But the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has not yet paid the coupons due April 1st, and have applied to be relieved from the obligations of the lease. The plea put forward is, that the D., H. and W. has not done something which it ought to have done. But this is the Pennsylvania Railroad's side of the story.

The bondholders have not yet been officially heard from, although there is no doubt the bonds received whatever credit they ever had from this lease, and the belief that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company would be bound by it to pay the interest on the bonds. But we presume they must now take up their position alongside of the Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central mortgages. A London letter of a recent date says:

"In reference to the dispute between the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central Railway Company, the London, Asiatic and American Company state that 'Whenever this company has attorized a guaranty upon any bond of another company it has always been done over the signature of its officers, accompanied by the corporate seal, upon the bonds so guaranteed. Every such bond guaranty of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has invariably been fulfilled to the day.'"

—The Russian loan of £15,000,000 introduced in London by Messrs. Rothschild & Sons was a 4½ per cent. stock, at 92. The price is considered very high, and there has not consequently been much enthusiasm about it.

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE, } BANKERS AND BROKERS, NO. 2 NEW STREET. NEW YORK, May 4, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The extreme dullness of the stock market has been its most characteristic feature to-day.

Pacific Mail exhibited some weakness early in the day, but became firmer toward the close. From all that can be learned with regard to this stock, we are inclined to think that the object of the management is to tire out the weak holders, in the hope of their selling out their stock.

We hear good accounts of the earnings of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and are inclined to think it a desirable stock to buy.

Wabash looks as if it would sell lower, but we believe that should it sell off to about 10 it will then pay to buy it.

The friends of Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company speak confidently of the ultimate success of the Faraday, although nothing has been heard from her, and higher quotations for the stock are a consequence.

Speculation baits and both bulls and bears appear to be waiting for some new movement on the part of their opponents.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

The *Alta California* of the 23d ult. says: The shipments of treasure by rail are again less this week than last, mostly on account of the break in the railroad:

	1874.	1875.
New York per railroad	$ 491,003 99	$ 287,488 00
China	474,641 54	262,276 00
Previously, per steamer	2,549,088 39	1,709,578 98
Previously, per railroad	2,880,956 45	13,018,407 72
Total since Jan. 1	$6,295,482 79	$15,368,050 70

The total shipment of coin for the corresponding week last year was occasioned by the currency bill then pending, the veto of the President. This week there has been a subsidence in the coin movement, partly in consequence of this quietude of the New York market and partly on account of the break in the railroad, which for some days has forwarded no freight from Ogden.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
May 5, 1875.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	123¾	123¾				
5-20's, 1862	121¾	121¾				
5-20's, 1864	117¾	117¾				
5-20's, 1865	118¾	118¾				
5-20's, 1865, new	121¾	121¾				
5-20's, 1867	122¾	122¾				
5-20's, 1867, registered	120¾	120¾				
5-20's, 1868	120¾	120¾				
10-40's, coupon	117¾	117¾				
10-40's, coupon	117¾	117¾				
Currency 6's	122¾	122¾				
New 5 per cents	115½	115½				
Western Union Tel.	78½	78½				
Quicksilver	19¼	19¼				
Pacific Mail	34¼	34¼				
Panama	169	169				
Adams Express	64					
American Express	64					
United States Express						
New York Central	123¾	123¾				
Erie	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾
Michigan Central	114	114				
Michigan Southern	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾	71¾
Illinois Central	93	93				
Cleve. & Pittsburgh	91¾	91¾				
Chicago & Northw'n	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Do preferred	69¾	69¾				
Rock Island	104¾	104¾				
St. Paul, common	37¾	37¾				
Wabash, common	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Fort Wayne	97	97				
Ohio & Mississippi	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾	34¾
Union Pacific	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾
Harlem	135	135				
Hannibal & St. Jo.	23¾	23¾				
Atlantic & Pacific	16¾	16¾				
Ca. C. & I. Co.	6					
Tennessee, old	71	71				
Tennessee, new	71	71				
South Carolina, Ap'l	32	32				
South Carolina, July	32	32				
Missouri 6's	101¼	101¼				100¾

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	51¾	
Reading, sales	35¾	
United Co's. of N. Jersey, sales	159	
Oil Creek	90	10
Lehigh Valley, sales	57¾	
Allegheny Valley	90	90½
Central Transportation, sales	46	
Empire Transportation	39	
P. C. & St. Louis, m. b., sales	76½	

[By Associated Press.]

Gold closed at 113¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, May 5.—Money 3@4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4@5 per cent.

STERLING

Steady at 487@487¼ for sixty days and 490¾ for sight.

GOLD

Opened and closed at 113¾, with sales during the day at 113¾. Borrowing rates 3@5 per cent. The Assistant Treasurer was paid $58,000. Specie shipments to-morrow will probably reach $350,000. Customs receipts $261,000. Clearings $66,000,000.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds steady. Railroad mortgages quiet. State bonds dull. The stock market was firm at the commencement of business with Lake Shore, Erie and Wabash sustaining the market. Later in the day, however, it would develop activity and lead to success, from the public's point of view, in unloading on a report to the effect that the Assembly had passed a bill compelling telegraph companies to place their wires under ground in the city of New York, which was, however unfounded. The market in final dealings was weak and lower. Western Union fell off to 78, Union Pacific to 78, Lake Shore to 70¾, Erie to 20, Pacific Mail to 34, Michigan Central to 69, Rock Island to 104¾, and New Jersey Southern to 5. The decline today caused quite a bearish feeling in the Exchange, and the short interest to-night is probably larger than for some time past. Rock Island earnings for April show an increase of $40,000 over the same month last year. Transactions at the Stock Exchange 159,000 shares, including Adams Express, 2,000; Erie, 20,000; Union, 28,000 Erie, 29,000 Lake Shore, 7,000 Wabash and 31,000 Union Pacific.

The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

Canton	60	Do preferred	58½
W. U. Tel	79	Wabash	12¾
Quicksilver	19¼	Do preferred	30
Adams Express	102¾	Fort Wayne	98
Wells, Fargo & Co	92¼	Terre Haute	6
American Express	64	Do preferred	25
U. S. Express	54	Chicago & Alton	105
Pacific Mail	34¼	Do preferred	120
New York Central	165	Ohio & Mississippi	25¾
Erie	20¾	Clev., Col. & Cin	80¼
Do preferred	39	Del., Lack. & W	115
Harlem	134½	Lake Shore	70¾
Do preferred	135	Michigan Central	69
Mich. Central	68¼	Illinois Central	101¼
Cleveland & Pitts.	93¾	Atlantic & Pac. Tel	25¾
North Western	41¾	Western Union Tel	78¾
Do preferred	54	Central Pacific bds	93½
Rock Island	104¾	Union Pacific bds	101¾
St. Paul	37¾	Del. & Lack	110½
Do preferred	57	Bankers' Bills	488

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	123½	U. S. coupons, 1867	122½
5-20's, 1862	116½	5-20's, 1868	120½
5-20's, 1864	117½	10-40's	117½
5-20's, 1865	118½	Currency 6's	122½
5-20's, 1865, new	121¾	Currency 6's	123

STATE BONDS.

Missouri 6's	100½	Virginia, old	34
Tennessee, old	71	N. Carolina, old	32½
Tennessee, new	71	N. Carolina, new	10
Virginia, new	33		

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY, May 5, 1875. }

The important questions which are now pending concerning the future of the tradeand industrial interests of the country are of such magnitude that every business man should take them into consideration. The satisfactory reduction of freight rates from the cities to the West and North-west, and to some extent to the establishment of closer connections between our oil refineries and the crude producing regions, and last but not least, the improvement of the Ohio river, open up such possibilities of prosperity, greatness and growth, as would astonish the most wonderful progress of the past. The great danger is in the neglect or carelessness of our own citizens. It is within their power to secure these great advantages if they will exert themselves, and no effort should be spared to rouse them to the effort. In this connection the following on the "Commercial Life and Position of Cities," from the St. Louis *Republican*, is worth taking to heart:

It is a fact in the life of individuals and cities that without an awakened sense of the necessity of a new exertion, they will fall behind in the race

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons, in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

THE exports from Philadelphia last week reached $764,600, of which sum wheat and corn furnished $417,757. This is a strong indication of how the grain trade of that city is growing.

COTTON is still king of our exports. Last year the value of the manufactured cotton exported reached the immense sum of $211,223,580, and in addition to this, we sent abroad cotton fabrics to the amount of $2,350,000.

THE pig iron industry in England is in a terribly depressed condition. Of 149 blast furnaces in the South Staffordshire district, 79 were, according to the latest mail advices, in blast and 70 out. Of 159 furnaces in the North of England, 125 are blowing and 32 are silent.

THE Dayton, Ohio, *Journal* proves that the late Democratic Legislature of that State levied $716,319 75 more taxes than the preceding Republican Legislature. Figuratively speaking, the Democratic party, there as elsewhere, has proved itself a literal and most costly fraud.

THE imports, exclusive of specie, at New York for the week ending last Saturday, amounted to $4,744,842, against $6,537,995 for the corresponding week last year. The total imports since the first of January foot up $125,652,316, against $144,709,876 for the relating period of 1873. The exports of gold and silver for the week were $3,005,370, making, with $20,178,605 previously reported, $23,181,975 since the beginning of the year.

THE contest between the various Democratic candidates for the Gubernatorial nomination in Kentucky is waxing red hot. The successful aspirant must have a clean war record from a Southern standpoint, and it is upon this alone that the canvass hinges. "Cerro Gordo" WILLIAMS seems likely to carry off the honors, his field services in behalf of the Lost Cause eclipsing those of his competitors.

THE California papers are now discussing the question what is to become of the people who are rushing to the Pacific coast with limited means, and without a definite plan for the future. For twenty-five years that State has been a "land of promise," but only a small proportion of those who have gone there have prospered as they anticipated, and these have in most instances been persons who would be successful anywhere.

OREGON papers say that all the indications point to a cheerful season, with fine business prospects and energy in the air. The very best kinds of industry and commerce, there are auspicious signs. The Governor, also, states that every needed blessing in the world is to be found there, and that the sole need of the State is population. People who are bent on emigrating to the Pacific slope would certainly do well to choose Oregon rather than California.

THE imports of foreign dry goods at New York for the month of April amounted to $7,394,081, being $1,000,669 below the corresponding month of last year. The quantity thrown upon the market was $1,151,792 less than during April of 1874. During the four months ending April 30, the total importations amounted to $43,992,846, against $43,421,942 during the same period last year. This shows a partial recovery from the extreme depression in this branch of business last year.

THE Brooklyn *Argus* has an article on the growth of that city which reveals the curious fact that, since 1858, the number of new buildings put up has been steadily decreasing. It furnishes the following figures in proof:

Years.	Buildings.	Years.	Buildings.
1868	2,831	1872	2,015
1869	2,671	1873	1,920
1870	2,214	1874	1,332
1871	2,214		

The figures for the city of New York, on the same subject, would show a still greater falling off than this, if they could be got at in any way.

THE New York Assembly has passed a bill reducing tolls on the canals of that State, which is likely, also, to pass the Senate; but, whether it does or not matters little to the State, for it is given out on authority that Commodore VANDERBILT intends to carry grain and lumber upon the New York Central cheaper than the cheapest rates of the canal, whatever those may be. So the State will have the poor privilege of keeping up the canals, while the trade of the lakes is diverted from them by cheaper rates on the railroad.

THE official tables of the foreign import trade of Philadelphia for the month of March, as published in the *North American* of last Saturday, show a total of $3,526,712, against $3,365,318 for the corresponding month last year; a steady increase. Only $45,173 was imported indirectly by way of New York, and of the aggregate importation nearly two-thirds came in American vessels. The countries sending out the largest amounts were: England, $1,404,000; Cuba, $1,337,000; Belgium, $251,000; Italy, $225,000, and Venezuela, $159,000.

OF TWENTY railroads whose accounts are undergoing examination by a special agent of the Government in regard to unpaid taxes, due on net earnings, gross receipts and interest on bonds, from 1864 to 1871 inclusive, but one had paid its taxes up—the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore. The Government has since received over $500,000 from the other roads, and it is estimated that upwards of $2,000,000 will be received before the examination is closed. There are yet over one hundred roads in the Union to be investigated.

THE British Board of Trade returns for last month show many effects of the revolution in the iron trade which is steadily transferring the supremacy to us. The total value of all exports was £18,608,223, against £20,100,814 at the corresponding month of last year, or a decrease of seven and a half per cent., while the total value of our imports was £39,920,747, against £29,748,844 last year, or an increase of four per cent. The most significant fact is a decrease of fourteen and a half per cent. in the quantity of iron and steel, while the diminution in value amounts to twenty-four and a half per cent.

FOR twenty years prohibitory legislation has been tried in Michigan, and, it having been found a failure practically in checking the sale and consumption of liquors, a stringent system of taxation has now been inaugurated and will be tried for the two years which will elapse before the Legislature again meets. A constitutional amendment is also provided for, to be voted upon by the people in the fall of 1876, giving the Legislature entire control over the matter of regulating the liquor traffic. There is very little doubt that the people will decide in favor of this proposition.

IN FORTIFICATION of his belief that the people of Mecklenburg, North Carolina, did, in May, 1775, "absolve themselves from all allegiance to the British Crown," Governor BROGDEN, of that State, lately referred to a letter purporting to have been written at London, by GEORGE BANCROFT, the historian, in which the writer was represented as declaring that he had seen in the British State Paper Office the first account of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence, in a letter dated June 20, 1775. The matter having been brought to the notice of Mr. BANCROFT, he has to can remember no letter written by him on the subject. He does not regard the controversy about the declaration as of very great importance.

WE PUBLISHED, the other day, a list of the failures occurring in the country for the first three months of the present year, with a comparative statement showing that the amount of liabilities exhibited no increase whatever above the average of previous years. So far as our own State is concerned, while the number of failures does not differ materially from the average of 1874, the amount of liabilities is very much smaller, being less than sixty per cent. of the amount in one quarter of that year. The total number of failures in Pennsylvania, during 1874, was 644, and the aggregate liabilities amounted to $36,774,000. Divided by four this gives 181 failures, with $8,693,500 liabilities, for a quarter of the year. During the first three months of 1875 the number of failures was 155, and the amount of liabilities $4,927,606. This marked decrease is matter for general congratulation, indicating, as it does, the hopeful and improving character of our commercial status.

UTILIZING COAL WASTE.

In the first stages of the business of mining coal in any country or place, nothing but the best coal is used, the small coal and the slack, or dust, being thrown aside as useless. This is what is known as "Coal Waste," and an immense amount of available fuel has thus been thrown away at all our mines because it was not so good as the lump coal.

In the bituminous coal regions the waste has been much greater than in the anthracite region. A great deal of "coal dirt," as it was called, was thrown out at the anthracite mines, at first; but the operators soon learned that even the smallest grain of coal was valuable, and the lesson of using what had at first been thought to be mere refuse was learned there much sooner than with us.

Where bituminous coal mines were opened along the lines of rivers, the "slack" or fine coal was dumped into the river and left to be washed away when the floods came; and in other places it was either thrown aside in the pit along with the slate, or emptied into a pile at the pit-mouth. When the pile became too big, it was an easy thing to set it on fire; and many a ton of excellent fuel has thus been either swept away by the floods, or consumed by fire. When not destroyed by either, it has been piled up with the slate, or horseback, useless for all practical purposes.

It is some consolation to those who have been pained to witness this waste to learn that this refuse or waste coal is coming, at last, to be appreciated. In the times when the price of coal was high there were men who were not slow to discover that "nut" coal, the small lumps which fall through the rough screens over which the coal as it comes from the mines is passed, was just as good for generating heat as the large coal, and that it was also much cheaper. This brought "nut" coal into general notice and demand; but the slack was still considered worthless, except for conversion into coke. Of late, however, those who have been compelled severely to study all the economies in carrying on their business, have found out that steam can be generated with slack as well as with "nut" or lump coal. It may need more care or skill in the handling; but it will burn freely, and answers all the purposes of other coal in driving an engine. The consequence is a resort to these cheaper kinds of coal, wherever they can be used successfully; and we are gradually approaching the time when every particle of pure coal, whether small or large, in lumps or mere dust, will be regarded as valuable, and will be in sufficient demand to warrant the operators to show their skill in preparing the various grades for market.

In mining bituminous coal a great deal of "slack" is necessarily made. The miner gets under the mass of coal before him by bearing-in with his pick through a soft portion of the vein near the foot of it, and much of the coal displaced by his pick, in bearing-in to enable him to force down the mass of coal from the top by wedging, is necessarily reduced to a state of dust. This is the "slack" of coal pits, and a great deal of it lies shoveled to one side, in the old pits, as worthless. That portion of it which came out of the pit with the other coal, was extracted from it by a screen, where the space between the slats was from one-quarter to two inches wide. The nut coal and slack all passed through these spaces together, and a smaller screen underneath served to separate the dust and fine coal from the coarser small lumps, or nut coal.

Coal is, to-day, nearly as cheap in Pittsburgh as it was in the earlier days when there was less demand for it; but, cheap as the very best quality of it is, compared with the prices that were built up during the war, manufacturers and others have found out that the smaller coals, including the slack, can all be made use of, and are much cheaper than the lump coal. This competition has, by reducing the prices of manufactures, compelled manufacturers to study closely the various items that enter into the cost of production; and a cent saved in the cost of a bushel of coal consumed amounts to dollars when the consumption runs into thousands of bushels. Why should a manufacturer pay a dollar and a half for a ton of lump coal when a ton of slack, nearly as serviceable, can be had for fifty cents? We use these figures, not as actualities, but as illustrations; and we regard it as one of the blessings that indirectly flow from hard times that it forces men into studying economy in all its bearings, and so brings about the use of valuable materials that, in the days of a ruder prosperity, were thrown aside as useless.

The pending strike in the anthracite regions has so reduced the stock of available fuel, that it has been found profitable to load up the "coal dirt" at the mines, and forward it to market, where it is in some way worked up into serviceable fuel. The waste, there, for the reasons we have before stated, has been less than here; but it was still been considerable: and the strike will not be without its beneficial uses if it teaches the operators to stop all waste, and save every atom of fuel for use.

Already, in this section of country, the slack piles that have heretofore, in our prodigality, been regarded as not only useless but encumbrances, are coming to be regarded as valuable. Every bushel of slack and small coal, now lying in waste heaps, may be made marketable, either now or in the near future. It has been a hard lesson to learn to be economical in the use of our resources; but the fact that we are learning it is one of the most encouraging signs of the times.

THIRD PARTY MOVEMENTS.

The banquet to Mr. SCHURZ, at New York, last week, while intended as a compliment to that gentleman, had, in reality, another purpose, that of bringing together a nucleus for a third or "independent" party in the Presidential election of 1876. It was followed, in fact, by a formal and secret meeting of those who took part in the banquet, at which a central committee was appointed, to act as may hereafter seem advisable to the friends of an "independent" movement.

The theory upon which these people proceed is that GRANT will inevitably force himself upon the Republican party as its candidate, and this will so disgust the anti-third term Republicans as to practically break up the Republican organization in the Northern and Western States. The first effect of such a disruption would be to open the way for the "independent" party to come in with a platform liberal enough to be satisfactory to the Republicans disgusted by the action of their own party, and yet sufficiently conservative to draw off a large following from the Democratic party.

That this was the conclusion arrived at, by those who took part in the meeting which followed the SCHURZ banquet, we infer from a statement subsequently made by MURAT HALSTEAD, who admitted having attended that meeting, as a looker-on rather than as a participant. He was very reticent as to what took place at that gathering; but he was candid enough to detail the basis upon which the leaders of the proposed new movement build their hopes. He is, himself, strong in the conviction that GRANT will be renominated, and he has little faith in the Democracy to hope for any good from it. The only recourse, therefore, of independent men, in his judgment, is in a third party movement.

This is what was anciently known as reckoning without your host. It may also be included in the same category as counting your chickens before they are hatched. Both of these methods of action are common with a certain class of mankind, and the fact that the host always comes in with a bill that exceeds your reckoning, and that the chickens are very apt to refuse members to correspond with the eggs, never seems to deter people from repeating a folly so often demonstrated. HALSTEAD, and SCHURZ, and BOWLES and all of that "independent" lot, are as independent of logic in their reasoning and of experience in their action as they are of parties in their politics.

The assumption upon which this action is based, that GRANT will force himself upon the Republicans for re-election has no basis beyond the wishes of those who indulge in it. There is no existing law to justify it; and while we think too highly of the President's judgment to believe that he will offer himself as a candidate, against the express wish of large portion of his party, we are confident in the conviction that he can not obtain a nomination for a third term even if he wishes it. If we concede that he would if he could, we are certain that he could not if he would.

The committee organized at New York by the "independents" is not intended as the formal organization of a third party, but only as the means by which a third party may be called into existence should circumstances seem to justify it. Whatever step is taken in future depends upon the action of the other parties. If both present unexceptionable men, no third combination will be made; if one nomination is bad and the other good, the weight of the "independents" will be thrown in favor of the good candidate; but if neither is satisfactory, then CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS will be brought out as the "independent" candidate. This was the programme marked out in Mr. SCHURZ's speech, and is doubtless the one afterwards agreed upon.

IRON AND STEEL TESTS.

We learn from the Washington papers that active preparations are making at the Washington Navy Yard for the tests of the strength of iron and steel ordered by the last Congress. The commission appointed by the President to supervise these tests consists of Colonel LAIDLEY, of the Ordnance; Colonel GILMORE, of the Engineers; Commander BEARDSLEY, and Chief Engineer DAVID SMITH, of the Navy, and Prof. THURSTON. The members of this commission are professional observers of the uses and tests of iron and steel and will test and brand specimens sent in by different makers. The examination will also embrace a combination of chemical and mechanical tests, and the testing of structures of the sizes actually employed, and under the conditions of actual service. We are not advised when the experiments will be made, nor under what regulations; but, as our manufacturers are directly interested in the results, and will, in all probability, avail themselves of the chance to submit their wares to the tests to be employed, we shall watch closely the further steps that may be taken, and keep our readers posted as to the facts in the case.

THE United States *Economist*, in noticing the opening of the wool clipping season, furnishes some interesting information, gathered from the best sources at command, regarding the probable yield and quality of the crop. The farmers are represented as generally unwilling to part with their crop. They are fully alive to all offers that may be tendered, but as a rule they hold off from consummating a bargain. So far the wool clip in California is estimated as in excess of the amount produced last year. Part of the clip has passed into the hands of the agents of Eastern mills, the remaining portion being held by the speculating farmer "for a rise." From Oregon the accounts are favorable. The fleece is said to be very fine and lengthy, and increased attention is given to the subject throughout the State. Its capacities as a wool raising country are now very generally recognized. It is believed that it is destined to become the great wool-producing country on the Pacific coast. It is also anticipated that the Texas clip will be considerably greater than that of last year. Indeed, the remarkable natural development of the resources of that great State would alone secure this result. If a farmer turns a few sheep loose on the prairie, in a couple of years he will find a whole flock. The trouble of branding and shearing is about all. The entire Colorado Valley extending through Texas, Colorado and Nevada, may be regarded as the natural wool producing region in the United States. Little of the clip has as yet found its way North, although some very fine samples have been received, which show a decided improvement in the prime essentials of length, fineness and durability of texture. In our own State, Maryland, Indiana and Michigan the clip is backward, though not more so than the season generally. The farmers are very tenacious as to prices, and it is evident that notwithstanding the active competition of "buyers on the spot," a large proportion of the new crop will remain in the farmers' hands for some time to come. The Kentucky clip is excellent as regards quality. In Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and some other Southern States, several millions of dollars worth, it is estimated, last year lost by the destruction of sheep by dogs, so that the wool crop in those sections will be quite limited.

THE action of a portion of the English manufacturers in refusing to send their wares to the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876, is an indication that Congress acted wisely in repealing the ten per cent. reduction in the tariff. These manufacturers say it is of no use to send their wares to Philadelphia for exhibition, because, being shut out of the American market by the tariff, they can not sell their goods here except at a loss to themselves. We are glad to know, by their own confession, that they *are* shut out from our markets, and we shall esteem it a happy day for this country when it can manufacture its own goods and be independent entirely of the manufacturers of other nations. The ten per cent. reduction in the tariff, made in 1872, was adopted because our financiers thought the tariff, as it stood, would produce more revenue than we would need. The panic of 1873 dispelled that delusion, for delusion it was, and the necessities of the Government compelled its repeal. That the English manufacturers should find that, incidentally, it hurts them, we are not surprised to hear. They cry out that "it is unfair to them," as if an American Congress was bound, in its legislation, to consult *their* interests! "It is a tax on Sheffield," they further make moan. "The ten per cent. reduction was an act of justice to English manufacturers." "Its repeal is an outrage." These are some of their expressions, and mild ones at that. We need not give examples to show that the effect of the tariff is hurtful to our competitors and beneficial to us, as the fact is patent, but so long as the contest continues we think it will be good policy to continue to do just those things to which they object. Our tariff is made for our own benefit, exclusively, and their interest in it is not a subject of consideration. England does not legislate for our benefit, and she has no right to expect us to be less selfish than she is herself.

THE fullness of the treachery of the Louisiana Conservatives in unseating four Republican members of the House after the adoption of the WHEELER compromise, is shown by the following extract from the agreement which was agreed to in the Conservative caucus, signed and delivered to Mr. WHEELER:

"Now, therefore, the undersigned, members of the Conservative party, claiming to have been elected members of the House of Representatives, and that their contested election have been illegally withheld by the Returning Board, hereby severally agree to submit their claims to seats in the House of Representatives, to the award and arbitration of Hons. John A. Hoar, Wm. A. Wheeler, Wm. P. Frye, and Samuel S. Marshall, members of the Congressional committee, etc., who are hereby authorized to examine and determine the same upon the equities of the several cases; and, when such an award shall be made, *we hereby severally agree to abide by the same.*" & c. & c.

That was one part of the agreement. Here is another, still more clear and direct:

"That the House of Representatives as to its members as constituted under the award of Messrs. George F. Hoar, W. A. Wheeler, W. P. Frye, Samuel S. Marshall, Clarkson N. Potter and William Walter Phelps, *shall remain without change, except by the resignation or death of its members, until a new general election.*"

The Democratic members of the Louisiana House all agreed to this compact; and, on the very first opportunity, violated it, grossly and outrageously. How is it possible to keep faith with men who are so faithless as these fellows have proved themselves to be?

THERE is no longer any valid reason for yelling "starvation" in Kansas. The actual necessities of those who were "cleaned out" by the drought and the insect pest are said to have been amply provided for. Further begging is not only useless, but dishonorable and disgraceful. The people are not living on tenderloin, roast turkey and plum pudding, nor are they clothed in purple and fine linen. But it seems that they have, or can get, enough plain food to satisfy an average kind of hunger, while in the way of raiment they are several removes from nakedness. Agriculturally considered, the present year promises to be an excellent one. Reports from all parts of the State say that the wheat and oats look splendidly, and that an unusually large breadth of corn is being planted. There is scarcity of seed in some localities, but not sufficient to leave any considerable quantity of farm land uncultivated. Corn will be the main crop, but the yield of wheat will be larger than in other years, should no bad luck befall it between now and harvest time, and there is good reason to anticipate increased returns in the way of flax, alfalfa, castor beans, and various staple vegetables. The grasshopper problem is generally supposed to have been solved by the coldness of the past winter and the chilliness of the recent rains. All things considered, Kansas is in a fair way to retrieve all the ill-luck of the past year.

THE following is a comparative statement of immigrants arriving in the United States for the five fiscal years ending with June 30th:

1870	387,203
1871	321,350
1872	404,806
1873	459,803
1874	313,339
Total	1,886,501

The decrease, last year, as compared with 1873, is regarded as only temporary, and is attributed to the general prostration of business which followed the financial convulsion of October, 1873, and the consequent diminution of the demand for labor. The immigration for the past two years, notwithstanding the great depression in business and labor, was greater than during any previous two years since the establishment of the Government, with the exception of the years 1853 and 1854.

THE amended regulations governing the redemption of mutilated United States currency go into effect to-day. In the case of legal tender notes, if less than one-tenth of the original proportion of the notes is missing, the mutilation will be disregarded. If one-tenth of the note is missing one-tenth of its face value will be deducted. If more than one-tenth and less than one-fifth is missing one-fifth of its face value will be deducted, and so on reckoning by tenths, but no note of which less than one-half of the original proportions is presented will be redeemed without evidence that the missing portion is totally destroyed. The same rule will be applied to mutilated fractional currency, with the substitution of one-fifth for one-tenth.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The immigration to Iowa this spring is immense.

Important discoveries of lead ore have just been made near Paris, Kentucky.

Societies for the aid of fallen women are springing up in all parts of the country.

The Brooklin *Argus* characterizes Claremont as "a model workhouse." Correct.

Bids for the privilege of selling soda water at the national Centennial are invited.

More gush. An inter-State collegiate oratorical contest will be held at Indianapolis this week.

Experiments indicate that nearly all kinds of Northern fruit will thrive in Northern Texas.

Mortgaging the future. Chicago owes nearly $24,000,000, and the tax levy is insufficient to carry it.

News from all over Arkansas is to the effect that the prospect for a fine wheat crop was never better.

The Cincinnati donkey that whipped a lion has a rival. A squirrel there, the other day, killed a rattlesnake.

They are making immense preparations in Dublin to give the American rifle team a "foine time, d'ye mind, now!"

A little more than two-thirds of all the goods in bonded warehouses in the United States are stored at the port of New York.

That banner-bearing idiot, "Sergeant Bates," is about to carry the flag of the free through Canada from Windsor to Toronto.

There are fears that the rubber tree will become extinct in India, under the indiscriminate system of tapping which now prevails.

The Eastern fire insurance companies are beginning to lose all confidence in the inflammable board-and-shingle cities of the West.

An International Convention of Sunday School Teachers will be holden in Baltimore on Tuesday of next week, continuing three days.

St. Louis has 98,206 children between the ages of six and sixteen, only 26,000 of whom attend the public schools. This is a very poor record.

The lobster clause of the Washington Treaty is likely to be a cause of no little discussion between our Government and Great Britain.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* seems to be maliciously engaged in killing Allen's chances for the Presidency. It supports him vigorously.

The Joliet, Illinois, mills turned out more steel last week than was ever before produced in the same time by any company in the world.

During the past year over $100,000 worth of nickle has been shipped to Wales from Mine LaMotte, Mo. It should be called the St. Nickle-us mine.

Ex-Governor Coburn, of Maine, has become a millionaire by his log rolling propensities—notwithstanding that they are exhibited in a lumbering way.

Upon the whole, the Virginia papers do not think that either the fruit or growing crops in that State have been seriously injured by the late cold weather.

Philadelphia, as well as St. Louis and New Orleans, is casting shrewdly about for the ways and means of increasing its commerce with South America.

The English Authors' Copyright Association is agitating for an extension of the protection of copyright laws so as to cover articles published in newspapers.

The "humorous" paragraphist of the St. Louis *Republican* says the atmosphere of Washington is fatal to anything in the brain way. He used to reside there.

The Missouri river at St. Joe is slowly but surely eating a channel on the Kansas side, and there is great danger that the city will presently be left an inland town.

We now have in the United States thirty-eight agricultural colleges, with 389 professors and 3,917 students. Few of the graduates, however, become farmers.

Lovely woman in Massachusetts has a vile habit of using tobacco. So it appears from the proceedings at the recent meeting of the Women's State Temperance Union.

"It is part of the vitality of nature we taste, and call it maple flavor," beautifully says one who hath the friendship of the nymphs and the secrets of the wood-land.

Scurvy fellows should take notice that a plant has just been discovered on the borders of the Caspian sea which is said to be an infallible remedy for scorbutic eruptions.

San Francisco proposes to get its drinking water from the Calaveras river, about fifty miles in the interior of the State. The cost of the scheme will be nearly $11,000,000.

The long and valuable life of Harriet Martineau, who enjoys a great reputation on both sides of the Atlantic, is drawing to a close. The winter weather has tried her severely.

A homeopathic college is at length to be established at Ann Arbor, Michigan, as a branch of the University. The State has appropriated the sum of $6,000 yearly for its support.

The practice of "salting the tracks" of the New York street cars during the winter, is now said to have caused much of the diphtheria and pneumonia that have prevailed there this season.

The gold and silver mines of Massachusetts, if we may believe the sensational reporters, are steadily assuming an importance that bids fair to develope into a small Black Hills excitement.

Madame Patterson Bonaparte has been to Europe sixteen times, and proposes, though ninety years old, to go again this summer. She says she has no idea of dying until she has rounded out her century.

In New York and Boston there has recently been an upward turn in the tide of real estate, and there are now signs that the recent stagnation in property, which existed for a long time, is giving way to a better state of affairs.

Those who are disposed to be gloomy because there is more crime than there used to be, should remember that there are more folks than there used to be, and what is quite as noteworthy, more charity and benevolence than there used to be.

Three Illinois fools are waging a suit at law over the ownership of three pigs whose aggregate value is $15. The costs of suit thus far have brought the cost of each pig up to $183. The pigs are standing it pretty well, but it makes the men grunt.

PERSONAL.

They are so careful of their opera houses in London that they will not allow Moody and Sankey to pray in them.

Governor Pacheco of California was recently attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs, and his friends feel very anxious about him.

Among Boston's taxpayers is a scrub woman worth $8,000, and an organ grinder who has just bought a $6,000 house an Hanover street.

Lafayette's grandson is weary of showing "that watch" to his friends. He wishes that the American people had kept it to themselves.

Gratz Brown has retired from politics and gone to building houses. Twenty-two handsome stone front residences stand in his name on the tax list of St. Louis.

Captain Russell, an old Massachusetts whaler, recently died at Honolulu, where he had lived for many years as the adopted child of a sister of Kamehameha III., in accordance with the native custom, on account of some service rendered by him.

Any one finding anywhere about New York city a Modoc Indian, will please return him to Colonel Meacham, one of the United States Peace Commissioners. The Modoc was taken to New York on Thursday last by the Colonel, but has disappeared. It is most probable that some childless family has adopted him, or that he has been captured by one of Barnum's agents.

A Decorah, Iowa, girl must be a charmingly uncertain thing to woo. Last week she went to the altar to marry her accepted lover, but he was detained a minute or two, and she decorahsly seized the opportunity to elope with his rival. Then the first favorite piled into a buggy, pursued and caught the flying pair, and she went back with him. He stayed right by her this time, and she married him.

It was stated by a Brooklyn paper some time ago that Mrs. Mary Clemmer, the well-known writer, who resides at Washington, was in Brooklyn, under another name, intending to appear as a witness for the defense in the Beecher trial. This statement, which was somewhat widely circulated, the Washington *Chronicle* says is wholly untrue, as Mrs. Clemmer has remained in Washington all winter, and has never had any idea of being a witness in the Beecher case.

MANY of our readers have no doubt been tempted to inquire, what sort of an insect is the buffalo gnat? The telegraph brings us accounts of cattle and horses destroyed in great numbers by them, in Tennessee. An exchange thus describes them:

"The buffalo gnat, which is causing so much destruction among cattle in the Southwest, is a small insect, not more than half the size of the house-fly, which suddenly appears in the air by millions and settles upon all four-footed animals within reach. A horse or cow will be literally covered with them at night; in the morning the animal will be found dead and swelled to an enormous size. The bite is very poisonous, and the wound quickly festers. Cattle owners find that the most effective way of protecting their animals is to cover them with a coating of diluted tar, but if that cannot be obtained fires are built and the smoke drives off the insects. Amongst the wild animals, especially the deer, on the Arkansas side of the river, the ravages of the gnat are everywhere apparent. Without any protection, the deer fall victims in large numbers to this poisonous insect, which, however, does not touch man."

THE latest intelligence with regard to the crop prospects, gleaned from different sections of the country, seems to warrant the conclusion that while much of the winter wheat has been killed, there will yet be a fair crop. Throughout the West there will evidently be a short fruit and berry crop. It is also generally feared that the Western peach crop will be exceptionally light this season, owing to the terrible cold of last winter. The Wilmington (Del.) *Commercial* does not encouraging account of the prospects in that State, which is almost wholly given to raising fruit, peaches especially. The price of the canned article is largely governed by the Delaware yield. Georgia mourns the probable destruction of the early cotton crop of that State, owing to the "cold snap" there last month, and Kentucky and Virginia have gloomy tobacco prospects.

THE special Rome correspondent of the New York *Times*, says in his last letter to that paper, that frequent reference is made there in conversation and in articles in religious newspapers to the perfect liberty enjoyed by the Roman Catholics in the United States, and a contrast is drawn between such liberality and the "persecutions" and penalties imposed upon the faithful in those countries in which Catholicism is the religion of the State. The fact has its lessons, and suggests interesting reflections. The hitch over there is caused by the ministers of the Church putting themselves in conflict with popular aspirations, with the progress that is going on in society, and with existing institutions which have been sanctioned by the suffrages of a majority of the population. Whether similar antagonisms will spring up in the United States, time alone can determine. If the present liberty and harmony should be destroyed and the conflict renewed here, and the Catholics should prove to be the greatest sufferers, it will be due solely to an error of their own in not being contented to enjoy, with all the rest, simple equality of privileges.

THE men who mount hobbies, and ride on them exclusively, are very apt to ride them to death. Thus Judge KELLEY, whose hobby is "more money," having lately been South on a hunting expedition, and mixed somewhat with the people of that region, has returned home with the conviction that what the South wants is "more money." A new issue of greenbacks, the banks, *per se*, not wanted. In fact, again. He doubtless put his questions to those, mainly, who were inclined to answer them favorably, and ignored those who differed with him. A man traveling with a pet theory can always find abundance of food for it by hunting it, and THURMAN could doubtless find as strong an indorsement of his hard money theory, in the same region, by actively prosecuting his inquiries in sympathetic quarters. What the South wants most, and it wants it in common with all the hobby riders, is more sense; and when it obtains that it will have the handle full of work sufficient to employ the money it now has and will not use to advantage.

THE Calais (Me.) *Times* says that during the winter the water under one end of a bridge at that place froze in one mass from the level of high water down to the bed of the river. As a result of spring weather the water worked under the ice, detaching it from the bottom, and when the tide came in it rose with the water, lifting the bridge with it into the air some six inches, breaking the stringers, cracking the gas mains and doing other damage. When the tide went out the ice settled against the pier, crowding it some two feet out of place toward the channel of the river. After the tide had left the ice some parties measured the cake and found it over twenty-eight feet in thickness.

FASHIONS FOR MAY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, April 30, 1875.

Notwithstanding the hard times and the dull times that there is so much talking about, there have been many weddings this spring, and a wedding is no small affair nowadays; it costs a small fortune.

I can remember when three hundred dollars provided quite a nice outfit, a handsome traveling, which was also the bridal dress, a tea rose silk for a reception dress, a black silk, an Irish poplin (which was fashionable then), two pretty morning dresses, a black mantelet of silk and lace, and small articles *ad infinitum*. All girls belonging to well-to-do families had a stock of underclothing of her own making in those days, and the articles enumerated were a sufficient addition to the simple but serviceable wardrobe of the daughter of a gentleman and gentlewoman.

Now, three hundred dollars is the price put upon the trousseau of a doll at a fair, and the sum would be considered moderate for the wedding dress alone of the daughter of a fashionable boot maker or successful tailor. Not that the boot maker and tailor are not or may not be gentlemen, but oddly enough it is persons who are or have been engaged in trade who now have the most money, and who dress the most extravagantly.

Clara Vere de Vere is married quietly in her ancestral halls in an embroidered muslin which was brought from Paris ages ago, but the daughter of the man who has supplied the house of Vere de Vere with meat for the past twenty-five years has a grand wedding in the church, is accompanied by six bridesmaids and wears a dress of white satin and lace and flowers, which costs five hundred dollars at the very least. Who shall say there is not compensation in this life when the good things—these are the good things, are they not?—fall to the lot of the artisan and the toiler instead of to the heirs of a genealogical tree. Ten thousand dollars would not cover the cost of several trousseaus finished since Easter for brides of substantial merit though no special social position; but as married women with money and time to devote to societies, and institutions, and fairs it will not be difficult for them to achieve that, and thus it is that the name and somewhat pronounced taste of Mrs. Bilberry Barnacle stands as the representative of American leadership in fashion; while the high and refined do Veres fade away and are no more seen.

The essential vulgarity of fashion is evident now from the fact that only money can achieve it; only the possessor of millions can or ought to afford the cutting up and piling on of rich fabrics; the adding silk upon silk and lace upon lace, gathering it all in destructive pleatings and bunches, trailing it in the highways and byways and changing its form with the frequency of the views in a kaleidoscope.

There was a time when dress was restricted to simple designs, when the difference between the high and the low was little more than choice in color and fineness of material. Now, dress is a matter of dollars and cents. The amount of material required is enormous; the using it up requires the labor of days and weeks, the disposition of the drapery demands the services of a maid, and the aggregation and amount of money equal to the whole of what even a quarter of a century ago would have been considered a large family expenditure. It is not unusual for a dry goods bill for a year to amount to from ten to fifteen thousand dollars, the dress maker's bill to as much more, and the milliner's bill, including flowers, to at least half that sum. This is common with persons of large income, and only these, therefore, can compete for the social prestige which leadership in fashion gives.

OFF TO EUROPE.

The *avant courriers* of the annual European exodus are the buyers of the great houses, who, early in the summer, start out to purchase in the European marts for the fall and winter season, and in the winter, in like manner, travel across the ocean to purchase for spring and summer. This year these birds of passage have taken flight several weeks earlier than usual, on account of the changes, the revolution, indeed, which has taken place in the manufacture of silken fabrics. The new damasks, silks and ribbons; the soft serge and armure silks; the open-meshed Orientals, the basket woven Mexicaines, plain and checked, have given an impulse absolutely startling to the trade in such articles of luxury, and have set the looms at work night and day at all the great European centers of the silk manufacturing interest. Of course it is here, as everywhere, first come first served. The buyers who are first on the ground secure a preferential choice, and sometimes the control for their houses, of certain leading styles, and when it is a question of expensive novelties, therefore, of which the manufacturers will not risk too large a supply, it is highly important, in order to obtain the best, to be on hand in time, and, if possible, in possession of the gold which is to secure the prize.

The current which has set for a long time in the direction of plain goods, will appears now to have taken a turn and with it the designs will change. The infinite complications in dress of late years have generally been designed with the view of giving character to plain self-colored fabrics. The new soft, thick silks and damasks possess a character of their own, which is best displayed by more classic and less ingenious forms; and therefore as fashion, spite of its apparent lunacies, generally has method in its madness, we may look forward to important modifications by next fall, of the present puffy and patchey styles.

On general principles it is not advisable for ladies who intend making a trip to Europe to purchase on their arrival. A better way, and the most economical in the end, is to provide an old dress for the voyage, a suit to bloom out in at the end of it, a change from this to meet traveling emergencies, and stick to these till they reach home again. A suit of handsome silk and drap-de-Paris or cashmere will then be found newer in style and more satisfactory than anything which could be bought off hand, without knowledge or experience of the merits of the several candidates for patronage. Sight seeing should be attended to first and shopping left till the last, till just previous to returning home, and then it is a mistake if they do not find their pretty things anticipated by their friends or in the shops at home. This, however, is not so important a matter. It may be true that the richest and choicest corals are sent to Paris and New York, and are not to be found in Naples. It may be true that prettier "charms" can be purchased for a lady's watch chain than those found for a franc or two outside the buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum; but it is something to see, to have bought this set of Roman coral at Castelani's in Rome, this piece of carved coral for a mere nothing in Naples, and these charms of one who manufactured them from the lava which incrusted the dead past and hid it from human sight and knowledge for centuries."

TRAVELING DRESS.

It is a very common practice among ladies who go abroad to buy on arrival common ready-made suits and dresses on purpose for "traveling." No greater mistake could be made. Flimsy materials look miserably before one stage of the journey is over, are a source of continual trial and mortification, and drop out of existence altogether before their purpose is accomplished.

One really handsome black silk suit is worth a dozen cheap ones, and this should be supplemented by a second black silk skirt, a plain one of good mohair alpaca, which takes up hardly any room, a *drap d'ete* costume or Princess polonaise, gray tweed polonaise and a couple of white waists for warm days, of brown and white batiste. This is sufficient in the way of dresses for a six months' tour, with the addition of a couple of morning wrappers and a black English straw hat, dark green veil, a pair of pebble walking boots, and a gossamer waterproof will be found valuable items in an outfit, and should not be forgotten or neglected.

THE SUCCESSES OF THE SEASON.

The successes of the season in costumes are the union of plain and checked in all wool and plain and checked in the new, soft matted silk. Distinction in fashion is a matted check, black and white, shirred straight, or a soft, rich, black skirt, trimmed with fine knife plaitings, a plain cuirass basque of the check and black sleeves. This same style is repeated continually in plain almond brown and checked beige, in gray silk and checked summer camel's hair, in two shades of silk or in two plain fabrics, one silk and the other wool. The polonaise is gone out of sight entirely; trainsare no longer seen, but all skirts are cut long, front and side breadths are drawn straight across, the fullness gathered into all kinds of artistic drapery at the back, surmounted by sash bows and ends and by the round cuirass basque.

The newest finish for the boddice of all walking dresses is a sort of fichu or half handkerchief, the ends knotted in front exactly in the style of Irish peasant women. Gray silks and pongees are finished in this way, the handkerchief usually being bordered with fringe, to match the rest of the dress. Pleatings are finer, more abundant and therefore require a larger amount of material than in the fall and winter. The fibre remarked, like crimping, and the labor of the very best and most thoroughly trained kind required for them is enormous. All skirts are now made with ruffled trains and are tr